真・天地無用！魎皇鬼外伝

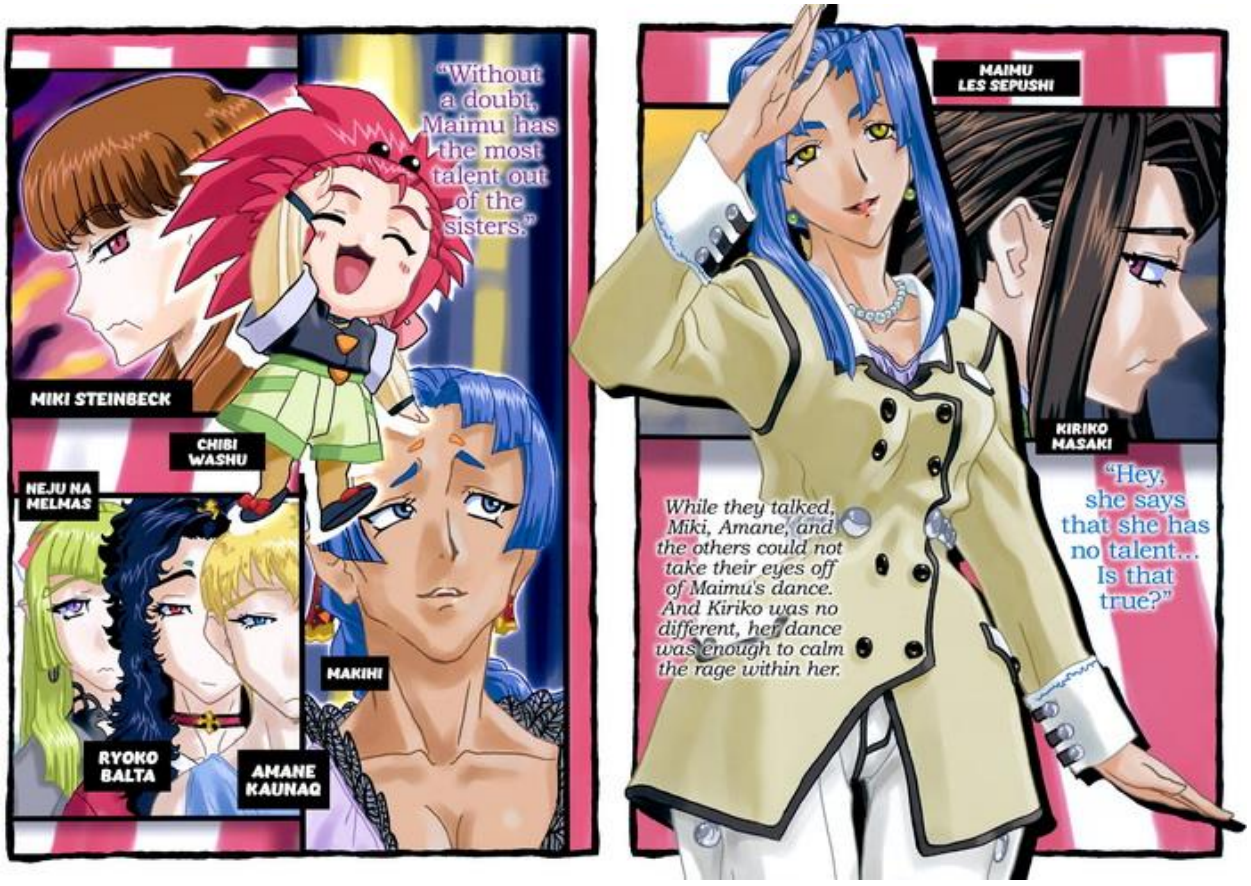
天地無用！GXP 16

梶島正樹

イラスト 梶島正樹

ファンタジア文庫

SHIN TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI GAIDEN
真·天地無用！魎皇鬼外伝
天地無用！GXP 16 簾座編
RENZA ARC
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 16
GYOKU REN
Gyokuren's beauty is a shadow. It was almost magical.
"The next queen boasts an incredible beauty. She had a chilling presence about her."
YAMADA SEINA
BARIGARU


"Without a doubt, Maimu has the most talent out of the sisters."
MIKI STEINBECK
CHIBI WASHU
NEJU NA MELMAS
MAKIHI
RYOKO BALTA
AMANE KAUNAQ
MAIMU LES SEPUSHI
KIRIKO MASAKI
While they talked, Miki, Amane, and the others could not take their eyes off of Maimu's dance. And Kiriko was no different, her dance was enough to calm the rage within her.
"Hey, she says that she has no talent... Is that true?"

With a sound that sounded like a woman's growl, the Seikishin contorted its body as if in a dance.
VOOO

Table of Contents

Chapter One: In Another World (?) **7**

Chapter Two: The Elemental System **16**

Chapter Three: Elemental Magic **27**

Chapter Four: A Feast for Those Left Behind **32**

Chapter Five: The Meeting **50**

Chapter Six: The Night Before the Duel **58**

Chapter Seven: Behind the Scenes **80**

Chapter Eight: Duel Without Honor, Preliminaries **85**

Chapter Nine: Duel without Honor, Farce **92**

Chapter Ten: The Couch Potato Appreciation Party **101**

Afterword: Concluding Theater Part 13 **106**

Illustrations

Cover - Kaguya, Kiriko, Sajyu, and Seina	**Cover**
Pinup 1 - Gyokuren, Seina, and Barigaru	**2**
Pinup 2 - Maimu, Makihi and the girls	**3**
Pinup 3 - Kiriko and the Yomotsu Wolf	**4**
Barigaru	**8**
Pinup 1 - Gyokuren, Seina, and Barigaru	**17**
Seina and Barigaru	**22**
Dryads	**25**
Kiriko is pissed, Miki is amused	**33**
Kuisu and Lazana in Bunny Suits	**41**
Gyokuren, Misui, and Komekitsune	**51**
Maimu and Kiriko	**61**
Pinup 2 - Maimu, Makihi and the girls	**69**
Kiriko and Yomotsu Wolf	**73**
Petite Washu and Fuku	**81**
Kiriko, Kaguya, and Souren	**90**
Pinup 3 - Kiriko and the Yomotsu Wolf	**98**

Chapter One: In Another World

What Barigaru showed him was a fantasy world that was composed of buildings that looked like they came out of ancient times made of stone and brick, and there were many kinds of people, beast people, and demi humans gathered there.

“Woah……” Seina was overwhelmed by the spectacle of it all.

“People who see this for the first time say usually that they feel like they've gone to a parallel world... That is if they can keep their mouth from hanging agape... what do you think about it little guy?”

“Yeah ... it's exactly like that.”

Seina turned away from the window and looked at Barigaru. From what he had said so far, he had apparently concluded that Seina had come here from outer space. However, it seemed that he was doing his best not to explicitly say that. Seina wanted to focus on the scenery rather than care about that. The sight of a fantasy world in front of him was just too fascinating. Of course, he had seen various species just wandering out and about in the academy. But here they were with the right background and all the important elements.

(It's not that unique from a design point of view.) The architecture was best described as Muslim styling mixed in with Medieval European architecture. There were really only so many architectural styles that people could create.

(The designs are totally different, but somehow they give off the same atmosphere as those on Jurai.)

Plants like ivy were entwined on the buildings, the decoration of the houses were calming, and the whole town was unified. It looked like a big garden. The main building materials was stone, but like Jurai you could just sort of tell this was the capital.

(It feels like I'm in some kind of wild kingdom.)

There were animals walking bipedally, half men half beasts, and human beings with animal ears. In addition, there was a variety of coats and patterns.

The outfits people wore ranged from the Middle Ages to present day Earth designs all at the same time. The biggest difference was that they were wearing armor and light armor. There were dwarfs and beasts, the carcasses of monsters they encountered, and some people's outfits were dirty and of had broken pieces of armor, or traces of repairs, details you'd never see in a movie.

(Nevertheless, there are hardly any flashy decorations like in movies and games.)

They needed practical items such as those for repair work so there was no point in decorating needlessly.

“Hm... Oh, what's that!?” Seina saw a long narrow cloud descending from the sky to the ground. The sign of a wrecked spaceship that came descending from space.

”Hah those outside would refer to it as an ‘amusement park ride for fools’ and make fun of it. Some people like to live an early civilization style life using something they don't understand and call magic, and some people try for more and the others ridicule them for wanting freedom. But despite dominating the skies, people can't live in outer space, because they can't live without their artificially created shells and enclosed cages. Even if they dominate space, most of it is just an empty void ... it's really just a matter of self-satisfaction.”

“Yes, that may be so.” Seina went into space and his freedom increased dramatically. However, it wasn't because of space, but because his cage of ‘biased probability’ that had bound him had disappeared. Or rather that he found people who needed him. That was what was important regardless of whether it was on the Earth or in space.

No matter how large the universe was, one couldn't live without the shell of a spaceship, colony, or spacesuit. No matter where you lived, the area where people lived and the space they needed was never as simple as just a place where they woke up and slept on a tatami mat.

(I never even used to be able to go out on my own to do anything ...)

He went shopping even on the Earth, but he could never remember going out for anything other than for the necessities he required. He had no travel stories, no school events, or going out town. He did his best to never even leave the house.

“Well, enough of that subject. We have some free time, so let me tell you all about that magic cold that you seem to have caught.”

“Yes, please do.”

“Although it can be said that magic itself is an element of all things, it can't change one thing into another, but rather it can change into another thing or another phenomenon, like say ... water.” Barigaru put his hands out in front of Seina, and a three centimeters diameter ball of water was created.

“This isn't a collection of steam in the air, but rather I changed the magic into water, and of course it's magic that is making it float in the air.” He moved the water ball into his mouth and drank it, it was like watching it float in zero gravity in outer space.

“But what is the thing that makes up magic in the first place? Well, it's not well understood.”

“Oh, is it so? Well ... why is that that?” Magic was a fantasy for Seina. He honestly didn't want a scientific explanation.

“It's not compatible with outside science, so scientific examination can't even detect the magic, the phenomena they derive from are completely different.”

“What do you mean by not compatible ...?”

“Hm ... ... I need to do something before we talk more about this.” He waved his arms wide. Suddenly the outside noise disappeared.

“A privacy wall ... ... No, some kind of barrier ...?”

“It's a simple barrier for sound insulation that's hard to detect.” He pulled up a chair next to Seina's bed and sat down. The scenery outside was now hidden by a tree and nothing could be seen outside.

“I actually went to the universities out there.” Barigaru pointed up while saying that. Of course, he meant in space.

“But this is ... .” It may have been Renza, but Seina figured that just like the Galactic Federation they probably prohibited contact between early level civilizations and more advanced ones. But since there was a space port here in the first place, he figured it might not exactly be an early level civilization world.

“... ... What kind of categories do you use for that kind of thing?”

“This place is a level 3, we can contact but we can't trade anything. We are usually banned from contacting civilizations without interstellar navigation technology, but the laws let us contact places that were terraformed.”

“So, it's like a nature preserve.”

“It's to protect the outside world from the magic plants, not us.”

“Is that because it's not compatible with outside sciences?”

“Oh, the magic plants erode and deteriorates the equipment of external civilizations, like an antibody clearing an infection.”

“What?”

“Anything brought here from the outside will be unusable within a month, no matter what kind of shielding you use, and any animal will start to change.”

“Uh oh, that's not good ...!”

“What happened?”

“Uhm ... ... How quickly does it break down things from the outside?” Seina was concerned for ZINV, who was submerged in the lake. The Royal Tree would come out of the unit and lose its power when it took root in the soil. The ZINV core unit itself was mysterious and there was no telling what would happen if it broke down from deterioration. He was also worried he might not be able to ever pilot ZINV again now that he had a magic organ.

“It really depends on whether the device is powered on or not. Someone brought in some things before and only powered it on when they needed it, they abandoned it when it became too damaged, but it lasted quite a while.”

“Is that so……” ZINV had lasted for hundreds of millions of years in a powered down state, so this eased his worries a bit. (I'm sure ZINV will alert me if there's any danger.)

“By the way, all living things brought here can develop magic organs, even plants and house pets, causing them to become quite dangerous, it's caused some odd problems in the past. Even worse, sometimes the plants cross pollinate with the magic plants. But it's still allowed to bring those things in, but never out.”

“Oh, is that so?” Seina shuddered to think what would happen if ZINV cross pollinated with them and a crop of magic second generation trees was born. He didn't know if that was even possible, and also ZINV was age fixed at an early age, so it was probably impossible.

“There are a lot of people here who are indifferent to magic in the sky. Although some people are actively involved with it, some of them feel that sorcery is like a pathogen. If it's difficult to obtain knowledge it may be because there is a tendency for the people of the magic civilized zone to challenge the outside technology. Of course, everyone is different, some of them accept outside technology, and some of those outside try to mix it with sorcery. There are actually planets that are aimed at choosing between one of the two and others that have compromised are working to try to mix them together as well.”

“How do you feel about it, Barigaru?”

“Technology is worth using, but it’s worth it to be upset about some of the wasteful indulgences of both domestic and foreign people's inefficient uses of it.”

He thought about the operation's base, over there the fantasy inhabitants were wearing strange uniforms. And they had magic plants in cases. He thought about it and assumed that was a means to seal the magic to keep it from eroding external equipment. “But I thought that if you use them together, the magic erodes the technological equipment?”

“It's not a problem to do so in the outside world, just in the magic civilization's area, but if you use them together, you need to shield the magic plant with the power of the magician. Using a magic crystal.”

“What is a magic crystal?”

“It would be better to explain it by further explaining sorcery. So, getting back to my story, when I lived there my life was the same as before but unfortunately there wasn't a centralized government on the continent of the space port, so it was like a semi-colony, like a colony of colonies, and you will hear plenty of bad stories about it around here ... ...”

“If you went to an outside college, were you originally from another planet?”

“I was born on this planet. Basically, this magically civilized country doesn't think that leaving is a good idea, and it's not easy to get access to the space port.”

“So how did you get out there?”

“They let people do diplomatic exchanges with the decentralized government there, but only those who have received permission can go there ...”

“But?”

“There's a route that's less than public knowledge. Of course, you have to have the necessary payment, but it is secure and safe.”

“Is there a way to be sure that it's safe?”

“This is a smuggling country, the ships come in from over there and embark out into the lowest slums, while you can save up the money you need from working a job, the labor we export comes cheaply, in a sense, it's like a tightrope walk. If things go well, it's far cheaper than the formal way of getting out of here. Of course, the government doesn't admit that it exists publicly, so most people end up getting caught or sent back when they’re caught stowing away. Even if you can make it out there, it's common for those who leave to spend their entire life in the slums, you can't get an ID to get a normal job, so people leaving have a tendency to become second-class citizens. It's hard work, but those who want to get out do it if they try.”

Considering that Seina needed to get off the planet in the future, this seemed like a kind of prison. Still, it was better than being cast away on a barren unexplored planet.

“I can't say anything about people in general, but there are a lot of people who have admiration on the outside for those young people who want to leave. But even if you manage to get out, it's still hard to get out of this star system. The route to go to space only extends to the military space port which you probably saw earlier. The number of ships is small, and travel expenses are quite expensive. Many give up their dreams once they get there.”

“So how did you make it out?” Seina was personally penniless, his money was all managed by Kiriko, and so it couldn't be used. If he couldn't establish communication with the outside, at worst he could work here to save money.

“In my case, I had a sponsor, but these days it’s hard to figure out just how much it's going to cost so less people are willing to do that.”

“I see... how troublesome ...”

“Another way is to enter the military and get a humanoid weapon. I don't know how that is done, but it's the shortest route to getting outside, but the army requires you have at least initial level Bio-enhancement for enlistment. If you're a human though you can receive the initial Bio-Enhancement adjustment free of charge.”

“Is that so… …” Seina got some ideas for a moment but switched the conversation in another direction quickly. (Either way, I have to cover my cost of living first, then there's also the problem of medical expenses.)

If you got out so far, why did you come back here? Oh, of course if you don't want to discuss it ... ...”

“It's not a big deal, the life out there just wasn't for me. Of course, I got the knowledge I wanted so it was a great experience but, honestly, I just didn't feel like life was any different.”

“That ... ... maybe so...” Seina's environment had changed dramatically, but his daily life wasn't that different from when he was on Earth. Of course, there were things to get used to, but the basic daily lives of people were the same everywhere, they worked and went out for entertainment, meals, and sleep.

“It is more fun to be a hunter adventurer here than it is to live out there, it fits me. And I like parts of the society here ... If you live here, you can live a life that feels natural and simple.”

“Parts ... ...”

“Well, it's just my preference, but honestly, it's because if you have magic and magic skills, you can live without much help from the outside.”

There's a concept of living a slow life on Earth. Some think that a primitive life is pleasant, and modern society is too vulnerable to crisis.

“What I got from going to an outside university is that I also have a high amount of scientific skills, but I also got to obtain knowledge of other planet's magic techniques.” Barigaru leaned against the backrest of the chair.

“Is it different than here?”

“Well, they tend to ignore each other because of the incompatibility between science and magic, but I found people who were interested in magic on the outside. Even the scientists were interested in learning the various differences in planets magic practices.”

“Well, isolation just naturally causes variation I guess.”

“Naturally, but there is nothing natural about magic. It seems like it's a very unnatural phenomenon. They think it was actually created artificially, but they don't know how, why or by whom. But by analyzing various places history it seems to have existed for a very long time. Some scholars actually think it’s one of the oldest things in the universe.”

“The oldest in the universe ...?”

The concept of supernatural powers such as magic on the earth had existed since ancient times. For primitive mankind who lived closer to nature, the techniques of magic predated those of science.

“We've confirmed that they even had a concept of it during the prehistoric civilization, there's no doubt that it existed even before that. However, there are no ancient documents or archaeological sites to trace its roots to, so no one is sure where it originated.”

“But everyone is familiar with the concept ... ... is there a reason for that?”

“It's intuition ... That's right, if sorcery is really a support system for daily life, then there's a high possibility that there's a way to find some sort of creator's record in the system itself.”

Did you actually find such a thing?!?” Seina asked.

“No need to get so excited, I don't even have the first idea how to check for such a thing.”

“Well, that's lame... ...”

“But the systematization of magic technology is progressing, when it came to things like magical spells, I didn't even know the exact invocation conditions.”

“Activation conditions? But you didn't have to do anything when you summoned the water, what do you mean by invocation?”

“Well, that's just a matter of just casting a simple spell, you don't need to do it with anything closely related to life, like water or fire. You just need to activate the magic for that, but it's surprisingly difficult to make it float like I did. You can do the same thing just by casting a spell ... No, rather, there are a number of spells that can do the same thing.”

“I don't understand ... ...”

“In other words, to express magic, a clear image of how you want things done is needed. Even if you cast the same spell, everyone has a different way to imagine it. For example, flying is a different idea for someone who's gone into space then it is someone who's never left the planet.”

“Oh, see ... words are certainly ambiguous.”

“Although it’s possible to find common ways to approach things, there are a lot of differences in the number of spells that do the same thing and so systematization is natural to categorize what is being demanded by “magic” in those spells, and the variations are impossible to know without going outside this solar system.”

“But once you know that everyone can use the same magic, can't they?”

“Well, no, not so easily. It's the simplest thing to know the right way to do things, but the amount of magic that's required for each act is really the most troublesome matter to the vested interests of magic itself.”

“Vested interests? Oh, but isn't the magic all around here?”

“There are two kinds of magic ... ... The magic cold that you have is a phenomenon that occurs due to the formation of a thing called a magic organ in the body.”

“Inside of me, but ... ... well ... Well, it certainly felt really hot in my chest before I lost consciousness ...” Seina put his hand on his chest, but the feeling had gone away already.

“Yes, a magic organ is being formed there, and magic uses the internal magic that accumulates in that magic organ.”

“Internal magic?”

“The magic substance drifting in the air is distinguished from it and is called external magic. So, there is internal and external magic, the two are similar things, and you can't control them unless you're a magician. When your reserves are small, the magic that you can use is limited. It's similar to your basal metabolism, it's used to strengthen the body first.”

“To strengthen the body ... ...”

“It's the surplus part that is used, what you can do just depends on how much you've got.”

“So, if you use a lot of internal magic with your magic you won't have much leftover...”

“Worse, there will be none left for strengthening your body. That can make you faint but if you're pretty strong it will just make you fatigued. But physical strengthening magic is a basic ability which everyone with a magic organ possesses, and it continues to consume internal magic for its maintenance. Therefore, many people can't even manage to use other types of magic.” Barigaru smiled after watching Seina with his hand on his chest. “Don't be worried about that.”

“... I understand the issue of how much magic it takes, but what did you mean by vested interest?”

“There would be a lot of unemployed people if you could make magic that anyone can use. The people who teach magic, schools, and the country are all keeping the advanced things a secret,

especially since advanced magic is also related to national defense. But the same thing can be said of technology which gives countries strategic advantages. It's a major factor that has obstructed the progress of systematization.”

In other words, advanced magic was treated the same as weapons here.

“I'm sure you can understand why they feel it's necessary though, can't you?”

“Well ... ... somewhat.” Seina's stomach growled. “Eh!? But I just ate two hours ago ... ...”

“Gahahaha! After the magical cold, that's common, you should be considerably depleted.”

Barigaru laughed and got Seina some stew from a nearby pot. Because Seina knew he wasn't dangerous, he took the stew and ate ferociously.

Chapter Two: Magical System

“I wasn't expecting a bidet.”

“Haha, that's magic crystal technology for you. One of the biggest problems I had coming back here was the lack of good toilet paper.”

“There wasn't much after smell either.”

“The aquatic magic tree this city has purifies the water and decomposes excrement really quickly. You can even use the water as drinking water, but you won't catch me doing it. Gahaha, don't worry, it'll go away soon with the fever, eat all you want, the price of the food pales in comparison to the debt you owe me.”

“Debt?” Seina had no idea what he meant, he just got attacked by a chimera and woke up here. He'd just assumed up till now that Barigaru was just a nice man who wanted to help. He went along with it anyways. “Uhm... how much do I owe?”

“You just woke up and you still have a magic fever, it's a bit early to be thinking about paying me back don't you think? But it's not too much that an average person wouldn't be able to eventually pay it off.”

“Heh...”

“But for now, we ought to discuss your future. Please sit down, this will take a while.” Seina sat down on the couch.

“Not that I don't care about you paying off your debt, but for now your future is more important.”

“I understand.”

“Well, like I was going on about earlier, it seems like someone has systematic control over magic here. Someone who must be higher in power then anyone who runs the magic universities around here that compiles all the knowledge on magic. I don't know exactly how far up this goes but it may go all the way to the top of Renza's government itself.”

“You're kidding right?”

“There's a rumor that the Royal palace on Knoxics has been studying demonic magic for a long time. The Masui royal family owns that place, but unlike the other royal palaces, it isn't the center of their politics, rather there are a lot of different royal Masui palaces. However, the next Queen has a terrible looking beauty, I saw the video that announced her as a successor candidate. She was around 14 or so, which made me feel creepy.”

(Seina had never seen pictures of her when she was that age, but he had no doubt she was pretty then, too) Her beauty was dark and almost magical.

Gyokuren was by no means an ordinary girl and to hear that her family might be involved in demonic magic was quite convincing.

“Well, let’s not get off track, I'm certain they are behind it in some way. I don't know how though. Anyways, one thing I learned back in the day at school is that magic is a substitute for science. To be honest, I always thought it was the other way around. But unlike magic, it can be used by anyone and has way more power.”

“I can see why you would think that, but I think that magic is a pretty good system.”

“How?”

“If what you say is true, then it can be easily used to get you all the things you need to live. Sure, there might be demonic magic but there has to be magic to counter that. But you will always have all the things necessary for life. In other words, if you’re on your own in the wild or civilization is non-existent with magic you can survive on your own without any problems. Wouldn't it make sense for there to be a system like that in early level civilizations?” That was Seina's unique opinion as someone who had had to be a survivalist multiple times now.

“Gahahaha. Wow, you actually reached the same conclusion I did. Even though science and magic aim to fix the same problems the process and speed are different. No, magic is quick and convenient, but technology can do so much more given time. In order to develop advanced magic, you would need lots of knowledge and a large magic organ to accumulate a large amount of internal magic. But for most, that is impossible. With technology it’s easy, so I think that's half the reason Renza uses the magic plants is for planet remodeling.”

“What's that?”

“Oh, I forgot to tell you about how the magic plant spreads ... but before I go into that I have to tell you that your magic organ has great potential, it's massive.”

“Wait... so I have an unusually large magic capacity? Is there a way to measure it?”

“It's obvious without anything like that, in general kids usually develop the fever before the age of 8, but it only lasts about 5 days for a few, most only two, but you're practically going to be a priest, your fever is still going, and it has been over 20 days...”

“So, the longer the cold the greater the capacity?”

“When it exceeds 3 days there is a legal obligation to notify the lords of the district.”

“Why?”

“Because that person is highly likely to become a high-ranking wizard, so in the future you will serve the lords here. You may be called whenever one has a child to be arranged marry into the family, it guarantees they will be married to a bread winner.”

“So, this will bring me money?” (When you think about it, I was made a member of the GP for similar economic reasons.)

“Well, family clan ties are an important thing here. This is not an individualist society especially for those in business here. Well, the reason you’re valuable is... well… look at this.” Barigaru showed him a ring on his finger.

“I've never seen that kind of jewel before.”

It looked like polished, brilliant coral about 3 millimeters in diameter and was sealed in a thin transparent crystal about a centimeter thick with a yellow tint. “This comes from a magic organ, it’s a crystallized magic liquid crystal.”

“What is it made of?” The red was different than that of blood.

“To be exact, the crystal is the thing inside the transparent part. It is a solidified thing called magic liquid. The crystals are extracted from the blood of a magic users magic organs. They form when one uses magic, it can be a big problem if they clog up the blood stream, but luckily wearing one like this can help suppress that and can even enhance your compatibility with magic. It can be used as a tool and is an indispensable transmitter, but sometimes there can be great resistance between your magic and the crystal and it can get hot and even ignite if you’re not careful. But back on subject, it can be dangerous to directly use magic, a clot with the crystal is the same as an embolism. If you don't know what you are doing, every time you use magic can be a countdown to your death. Luckily these crystals can accumulate and memorize magic, to some extent they've become a mainstream way to use magic.”

“So, it's mainstream now. That's a bit disappointing.”

“Gahahahaah, I can understand why you would feel that way. But high-ranking magic, long lasting magic, and other special kinds are limited to only people who can use magic naturally. In your case though, you have a huge capacity so you can probably make some giant ones. It’s quite frightening to think about, normal people who can only use small amounts of magic can, over time, get one of these and use it to extend their capacity.”

“So why is it so important to declare people with a large capacity?”

“We can only fill it if we can afford to. The military, for example, will need to fill up quickly if a battle breaks out. And the production of magic crystals, that is, those who can crystallize them and those who can copy the magic, are needed, but they are few and far between. Therefore, magic crystals are still very expensive. At the moment, the main use of magic crystals is for weapons, in other words, military use, but the demand for civilian use is also increasing. At this stage, it is limited to the nobility and large merchant families, but in the future, it is expected to be used in the home, just like home appliances. Some use them for signs, you can see some out the window at night. There’s also a large magic team that use them for maintaining barriers and even a power station but how they made it is kept secret. Even if you can pay to use it, it costs an astronomical figure. As such, the crystals are actually a preferred payment for taxes and just as valuable as money. Not everyone can make them though, those people tend to become hunters and adventurers. They just cultivate monsters instead to get them.”

“Wait, isn't that dangerous?”

“It is, but since they have magic organs, it’s a lot like farming livestock. Goblin farming is pretty popular, it’s kind of like cockroach farming. Their meat is smelly, most of it is unusable, but they produce liquid crystals efficiently, and they breed quickly and in a large number, and they will eat just about anything, gahahahaa.”

“Is there a difference in crystals... like grades?”

“Yes actually, bigger ones can be made from smaller ones, and they aren't that great, but big pure one’s are rare and do exist, but they mostly go to royalty and aristocrats.”

“Has anyone ever examined them like at the school you went to?”

“Obviously, but it’s totally unknown what they are, it won’t respond to most inspection equipment, whenever we thought we sensed trace things... it turned out to be dust in the equipment.”

“So, no luck synthesizing them with technology?”

“No, the only consensus it that they are made out of a magic element, it's also not easy to study magic users magic organs because often times they disappear in those who leave magic planets all together. But they come back when they return... Anyways, since you have the power you do, I have no doubt many will be coming to seek you soon.”

“What do you think they will want from me?” Seina was worried, he thought about his previous encounters with people like Washu and Airi ... and Airi ... and that other time with Airi ... and also that one time she did that thing ... oh, and that other time when she ... he was worried about becoming a guinea pig. (But neither of them would kill me, I might end up being autopsied here.)

At least Airi and Washu had Kiriko and Tenchi to reel them in and keep them from going overboard. But whatever the equivalent of a philosopher was here they would have no such limiter.

Barigaru took a deep breath, “Sorry I've talked way too much, please forgive me. But it's probable the people here will want to study you to learn the secrets of your body.”

“... Please help me.” Seina sighed.

“I will, this situation could be worse than I think it will be, but I'll help you. It's just my way, and besides it'll be more interesting than anything else I can do instead.”

“Thank you!”

“You're just going to have to owe me an even bigger debt in exchange! Gahahahaha, in any case I'll need to take you to see some people. They’re going to be friends of mine who will want to meet you. But before I get into that I have more to explain to you. Although magic here has only manifested things found in an early civilization, it's clearly a high-level technology itself, and conversion and formation of any material is possible. So in a way, our perception of it is kind of distorted. Not only can it produce anything made by higher civilizations but, well it can make things we can't even begin to imagine yet. Since people usually get magic as a child, there have been times in the past where they have managed to imagine some pretty interesting and terrifying things. But for the most part, people here never manage to manifest high tech things because simply, they don't even know such things exist.”

“But what about those like you who went to an outside school?”

“I learned about a lot of new materials, but I wasn't able to reproduce some minerals. They require high temperatures and pressure, and it just took too much magic for me to be able to produce them. But in theory, if you have enough magic and the right materials it should be possible. Even if it's not practically doable, you could just summon the metal as long as it exists somewhere. More often than not though, it comes in a raw and unprocessed form. The major hurdle is still magic capacity. With enough, even alchemy is possible. Actually, you could probably use that much magic with an external magic element to channel it into, but that's hard to control and a delicate process. But well, have you seen one of those force field covered plants?”

“Yeah, I saw one once.” Actually, the force field around it reminded Seina of the field surrounding ZINV when ZINV regenerated.

“In theory, it’s possible to create a plant like that and use it to channel the magic, but most of our magical capacities prevent that. Luckily for what we can’t do with magic, we have furnaces for smelting so we can make alloys as strong as orichalcum.”

“Wait, is that a real thing?”

“It is and it's the strongest we have, but it comes with some downsides. It's almost incompatible with magic enhancements besides elemental enhancement.”

“But without magic, how is it still viable in combat.”

“It depends on the situation really. It’s better than iron and a bit magic resistant, so unless you’re fighting a high-level magician it's a very strong material for hunting equipment.”

“So, what would you use ideally if you wanted high magic compatibility?”

“The metallic rocks here have been exposed to magic for a long time and have high compatibility, but they gradually lose that in the purification process and most alloys lose almost all of it, but we don't know why.”

“By the way, what happens to orichalcum when you use it in technology?”

“I don't know. I've never tried, ghahahaha. It's not easy to use fancy materials like that for such experiments, the price is high. Besides, it's just cheaper to use mithril silver. Sometimes we use an alloy for the sword itself, but the blade part will be made of mithril silver. There are some magic blades with self-healing abilities, but they will drain most people of their magic to fix them, using only one sword is typically reserved to nobility. Usually, people carry many at once in a magic bag... a sort of subspace box, they differ in price based on capacity. I have one for you if you want to buy it.”

“I'll have to see about that debt first...” Seina wanted magic more than anything.

“I also have many prototype weapons here. If you want an orichalcum one, I can sell that to you too.”

“I don't want to be in debt the rest of my life. I'll take something in mithril silver, if you got it.”

“Weapons made with mithril are going to be expensive in general, they’re relatively delicate and repair is specialized. I think you're going to need something made of iron. More people can fix it easily if it breaks. But I've gotten off track again.”

“Well, it was interesting hearing about mithril and orichalcum.”

“I should have told you all that while showing you my collection, anyways what is your impression of this world?”

“It seems like a storybook world to me honestly.”

“A lot of outsiders say that. Especially those who's planet was seeded by the prehistory civilization, most of those planets have legends of this kind of stuff don't you think that's odd?”

“That is odd... Do you know why?”

“I think it may have to do with how the magic system spreads. It’s been described as a pandemic before.”

“Like a virus?”

“Something close to that. The magic plants come from primitive microorganisms. We've discovered them in rocks and even ice drifting in space.”

“So you mean it can come to a planet on a meteor?”

“Yes, and in recent times, outsiders have even accidentally brought it to other planets. Because it is a primitive, tough condition surviving micro-organism, and as long as the conditions are right, it evolves rather quickly into the magic plant, and the magic and the plant can't be detected by outside civilization's scientific equipment.”

“So, is spreading it a pandemic?”

“Well, not that big of a pandemic. If there is enough of a scientific civilization it won't develop, it only works if the planet meets certain conditions. At first, it starts out like a mold then becomes like a moss and finally forms a jungle like what you saw out there. In only 5000 years a planet can be entirely covered in jungle.”

”Only 5000 years? That is indeed a pandemic!”

“Not only that, but it also makes a magic organ in everything there, and causes rapid evolution of living organisms, those small ones are commonly referred to as goblins. They usually evolve rapidly from small mammals, but they are capable of breeding with a lot of different species and they have a high reproductive rate and easily mutate.”

“That includes humans, doesn't it?”

“Yes, and the children are still considered a type of goblin, unfortunately. Some people call them demi goblins. Usually, goblins only seem to have the intelligence of a 3-year-old, but some become highly intelligent. Some of them are subjugated by others, but most people won’t even bother. It's not easy. I was assigned the job of trying to train one once and I never want that job again, it was such a pain.”

“Is their intelligence passed down?”

“They're not very fertile and they don't reproduce very quickly, but our researchers think that there might be a possibility of them evolving to the same level as current humans in less than

10,000 years of breeding. Plenty of humans had goblins on their home planets so the researchers have been looking for a common link for a while now."

"Wow, so only 5000 years to grow that stuff all over a planet and then 10,000 years to evolve humans, that's terribly fast."

"There are quite a lot of demons thought to be goblin crossbreeds: Orcs and kobolds to name a few. But we don't know if it's from cross breeding, evolution or mutation. But there are a tremendous number."

"Wow, goblins are pretty amazing don't you think?"

"They are awkward and irresponsible monsters. Like I said earlier, they have a lot of predators, and they're pretty weak. They seem to have a language but no writing system to pass down knowledge. Some know how to use weapons just by looking at them, but few have that much intelligence. 10,000 years was the shortest estimate... not a rule."

"What will you do if they become intelligent?"

"If they're intelligent, they will keep away from my town. I don't care what they do out there."

That was a short amount of time in the universe, but Seina didn't feel like pushing the issue.

"So, what about primitive humans?"

"They also get affected, sometimes beyond just getting a magic organ, like the elves in the forest and the dwarves who are adapting to living up here now after a long time underground. There are also theories that they are affected by plants and minerals, some have become mixed with beasts."

"So human genetics are subject to change too?"

"I'd say normal humans like us are the odd ones here. But we all have pretty good ties with one another. The only real humans anyone has to worry about are outsiders who come to hunt for slaves."

"Is that a problem here?"

"Well, it's not as common as people coming from the outside and it's not as bad as it used to be. But well, it's a bit different, not totally illegal. And there are plenty of people who want to make it off this planet at any cost. Basically, they are contracted as compulsory indentured workers for a period of time before they're set free. Say, you wouldn't happen to be a runaway slave, would you?"

"Oh no, it's not like that... I don't think..."

Well... his mother and sister made him sign away his life in a brochure, and they put him on a ship while he was sleeping without his consent... (When I think about it that way, it almost seems

like human trafficking.) Of course, he was given the option to go back, but had ultimately rejected it.

“Well, if you can’t pay off your debt, I'm sad to say you will be in a similar situation.”

“Hahaha... Well, I guess that can't be helped... I think I'll manage somehow.”

“Hey, a slave is an asset, so you won't be put in danger or hurt if it can be avoided. And you’re a boy, so you'd make a lot of money. Don't get me wrong though, that is a worst-case scenario. With your magic capabilities, I doubt it would happen. I just think people are too lazily optimistic sometimes.”

“Do most people become slaves because of debt?”

“Some, others are children sold off by their family, so at least they know they'll always be fed, others have sold themselves off for the same reason. They mostly work until they repay what is owed and then they’re released. But there are a few real slaves in the sense that they are bought permanently and rented out to pay for their upkeep.

“Kind of like a temp agency?”

“They’re usually prisoners, slaves who were criminals. They’re disposable, they have a cheap price and a large supply. Those people got sentences equivalent to the death penalty, most are ordinary people but a few of them captured are space pirates. We call them sky pirates by the way.”

“Why don't people just join the Army?”

“I don't know about you, but I'd rather be a slave then going around harming places where other's live like those fuckers do.” Barigaru's brows wrinkled.

“Isn't there someone to appeal whatever there doing wrong to?”

“Hmpf... although it wasn't really seen like that in the past, now most people see the army as the bad guy. We’re on the frontier, away from the center of Renza. They treat us like a developing civilization, so making any appeals to them is like making an appeal to the root of all evil.”

“I see...”

“But we’re getting off topic again. With the species evolving, they tend to change the area in ways that make it easier for people to live.”

“What if there is no life when it takes over a place?”

”We haven't found any place like that yet, but I would suspect you would just end up with plant-based creatures. There are plants with humanoid appearances, like the dryads. There is also a theory that the magic plants are the ancestors of the original animals on most planets too. In that case, things would just take a similar path like our planet and develop an ecosystem.”

“So maybe goblins have a plant ancestor? Since they show up on so many planets.”

“Scholars have found their closest ancestor before; a half biped called the guremori. But we don't know where that came from.”

“Don't you think the magic plant seems to be likely since they seem to almost always show up?”

“If magic was made as a life supporting system, it might also have a program to evolve things consistently into things that would serve a certain purpose. No one knows where the magic system came from, but it's possible those who created it built up some kind of control center to develop it and the information is stored there. Also, the astral sea is a mysterious and powerful thing and can't be counted out.”

“But why does magic remain a traditional part of so many planet's histories? There's no trace of it left on my home planet but there are lots of folk traditions left over.”

“Who knows... Maybe if science can't detect it and there are no signs left of it, then when they start to develop science, they won't go back to depending on it and not developing science.”

“Well, my planet is certainly at an early stage of scientific development and there are no clear signs of magic left.”

“But what if there's another reason? Magic has its own version of the transfer gate, and super spatial navigation is possible with it, not only between planets but between dimensions.”

“YOU CAN GO TO DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS WITH MAGIC?” Seina exclaimed.

“It's actually easier to move between dimensions then to move somewhere in the same dimension. But only in theory, there are no instances we know of people who can do it. But there are legends, and we have discovered signs of it. There are also some monster summons pulled

from different dimensions and there is also the possibility of it being fixed to another planet from this world. It usual happens when calling upon what we refer to as ancient beasts, like dragons. Also, if you summon humanoids like elves, dwarves and beast men, well there are many here whose ancestors were summoned from different worlds. There are signs of this too, the difference between them and the ones here is that they were born with magic organs, everyone else develops one at an early age with the magic cold. We call them ancient because we believe they're the finished evolutions of the species."

"So do you think it might be possible that some of these creatures use magic to gate to other planets with life and then get stuck there when there's no magic? What would happen if that was the case?"

"Their body would strengthen, but they couldn't use any magic, so it would weaken too in a way. Like if they couldn't fly or support their own weight. I would imagine the humanoids would just eventually blend in with other humans and return to their original human shape... Just like if there was magic and science developed."

"Most of our legends of magic and fairy tale creatures tend to end around the medieval era..."

"So, it makes sense that might also be why the traditional folklore of most planets has these creatures."

"By the way, Barigaru, have you ever summoned people or monsters from other worlds?"

"I'm not that skilled, I can only summon pretty simple things. Oh, also it's pretty rare to even try. It is possible to call certain things from the astral sea itself. You can converse with them and even give them a sort of force field body.

*** * * Translators' note: Like Ryoko does with the 'spirits' she calls. * * ***

"It can be a bit troublesome when you get a person with multiple memories, you can use it to summon someone with the desired abilities you need right from the astral sea. But a good summoner can do all that and much more."

"Well... That's impressive... As far as I know, no one else has ever created any system like that..." Seina's stomach began to rumble he was hungry again.

Chapter Three: Elemental Magic

After finishing another meal and a trip to the bathroom, Seina sat back on the bed.

“Well, that's about it for magic, but you seem disappointed.”

“Well, a bit ... ...” Seina was from a world of science and technology that was like magic, but the magic crystal magic was similar. He had expected magic to be fancier.

“There are many people whose primary job is casting spells, such as high-ranking wizards.”

“Really?”

“Magic crystals need magic for keeping records. The records will also disappear if they're completely depleted. The patent fee to record is also enormous because of the high amount of magic required. If you inadvertently run out of magic during battle, High Magicians usually carry their own magic in them as insurance for when they're in danger. But usually, they're used as a storage medium for magic power. Advanced magic also includes spells with its magic and entails making fine adjustments to things such as the accuracy of attacks.”

“Oh, I see!” A magic crystal weapon was likely to have a large output of thermal power.

“Gahahaha! The magic crystal is a weapon made by a magic organ, but it's also a last resort because it can provide aid and make it easy to use complicated magic. But certain things can't be reproduced with magic crystals, so regular magic isn't going anywhere anytime soon.”

“Really?”

As for Seina, when he had heard that all the magic had been replaced by magic crystals, he felt like returning to country life. But then he remembered the large house that had taken the place of his parent's old cheap modern house. Of course, it was convenient for his parents who lived there, but it ruined the image of his hometown in his head. “Ha ha ... ... I'm sorry, but I don't like the idea of magic crystals, I know that's more convenient but ... ...”

“Gahahaha! There's no need to apologize. People who come from the outside all feel the same. The use of magic thanks to magic crystal appliances has become easy. However, using magic in daily life and taking it for granted can cause a lot of accidents due to convenience. People can be too eager to confront monsters in their hunting adventures, and they can end up going completely overboard with a weapon that shouldn't be so easy to use.”

Those who used weapons with short ranges like swords and spears were usually fine but those who used bows could easily hurt their allies with friendly fire unless they practiced a lot.

“It is useful as a weapon with great power against monsters, but it is a weapon. You still need to master it, and if you consider the cost, doing magic the old-fashioned way is still better.”

“Yes, but certainly magic crystal tools are useful as long as you're skilled.”

“Maybe, but you really only need them when fighting high-ranking monsters like that Chimera you encountered.”

“Oh, was that Chimera's roar by any chance magical?”

“Yes, it's called the roar of death. It just stops its prey's movement usually, but you're lucky. You could have died if you took a direct hit.”

“So, if you fight against that kind of thing, you’re saying it's best to have as many attack options as possible...”

“Maybe not for you, you can use powerful magic without magic crystals. Of course, you'll have to study how and be trained first.”

“Can you teach me?”

“I don't have the skills to do that, but you have some scientific knowledge. You should be able to use simple magic and that should be more than enough for now to take down goblins and orcs.”

“By the way, goblins and orcs, how much money are they worth?”

“Depending on the development of their magic organs, at least 100,000 for an orc. A goblin has almost no use, they're found in swarms so it's like fishing with a net. You get a lot of small crystals, so that can get you some reasonable earnings but it's not really worth the trouble ... ... But is that really what you want to be doing?” Barigaru stared at Seina with a serious look on his face.

“What else can I do ...?”

“Well, you can be a hunter to pay off your debt, but you could also join the magical pharmacy Guild. They use magic for medicinal research and sell cures.”

“Is there anything else?”

“Yes, but nothing easy and in the scope of what I can get you. Anyone else might be suspicious of you. Worse comes to worse, I can just sell you like my former apprentice sold you to me.”

“Former apprentice?”

“You met him while fighting that chimera.”

“So those are my only two choices. But you’re in the guild of hunters and adventurers, how do you have connections to the Magical Pharmacy Guild?”

“I'm friends with the strongest magician they have ... ...”

“How?”

“... Well ... She's kind of a pervert ... But not unreasonably so. Somehow, she's still leader of the Guild ... ... Well, I don't think she even cares about her title... But that's neither here nor there.”

“Is it okay to leave me with such a pervert?”

“Oh no, don't get me wrong. She's truly a polite and good girl, when she's being a professional. But in her free time, she is a huge perv, you'd never guess that such a pretty lady would be like that just from looking at her.”

“.....” his description reminded Seina of Airi.

“She's the kind of woman whose lover's run away when she shows her true colors...”

“So, there's only one alternative?”

“Gahahahaha! What, are you afraid you won't be able to cut it as a magician?”

“... ... It's just that I know a woman who fits that description, so I don't want to get involved with another person like her.” Seina's instinct told him she should be actively avoided.

“Well, if you stay with me, she won't do anything, or I'll get involved. You can trust her to not cause any trouble anyways, since the creation of magic crystal technology, the definition of both guilds is ambiguous so there are people who are registered in both of the guilds. They used to try to keep interfering with each other's territory, come the next generation, there will probably be a merger.... But, for now it's a good way to become a lord or noble.”

“Well ... But ... If that is the case, there's only one answer. If I don't choose to be a hunter-adventurer here, then there's no point in being here!” That was what made Seina happy. It was lucky for him that he was able to do it a few times in the Galactic Federation. But in that case, his role there was already forcibly chosen.

Authority and luxury were incongruent to Seina. But as an ordinary person who didn't have anything, it was also kind of scary. That's why he had a strong admiration for the way hunter-adventurers lived by only their own power.

The unknown land, the terror of the disease, and the attack of monsters. The dangers of trouble and death were familiar to Seina and were normal to him. The joy of being in a fantasy world was more important to him than that.

(So, he's going to become an adventurer ... ... as expected)

In the fantasy world, it was common to choose the life of an adventurer. Either way he still had the problem of ZINV, and if he was to find a way of returning to space, he'd need to be able to explore.

“... Well, you're still young, there's no need to limit yourself just yet, you won't be dying any time soon.”

“By the way, I hate to ask, but aside from those who you met earlier, was there anyone else who you told about me being sick?”

“Oh, I see, you're a cautious one. That's a good skill to have.... your party told me you had a fever the past few days. As far as anyone knows though, you’re at my place because you're recovering from a chimera attack.”

“Is this place far from where I passed out?” It was dangerous to put Seina in the immediate vicinity as long as he was hiding.

“Oh, this is the old capital of Nakhbar, which is a bit far from the city of Makiba where that party was based.”

“Thanks for everything and I look forward to your continued support.”

“Gahahaha! Well, now that I'm done explaining things, let's talk about the money you got rewarded. You get 30% of the earnings from that chimera.”

“Can you get it for me?”

“Of course! But since you're not a member of the hunting guild, they won't make the proper deductions for taxes, so I'll hold onto that for you, but there are still things that haven't been appraised or valued yet.”

“Appraised? Is that a problem?”

“Well, the things you brought back were in good condition.”

“Is it rare to find that large of a Chimera?”

“Well, it ranks a 6 out of 10 but they’re only found in the middle level. There's no magic crystal technology there yet, and the parts that have been explored haven't even been prospected, so those are held as top-class monsters. And Chimeras are a popular monster to use as a symbol of power and awe, old royalty and aristocrats liked to use them in their family crests.”

“Oh ... ... so they’re worth a lot, right?”

“The grade changes depending on where you took it out. In wetlands and swamps there's the danger of gas or a volcano. Conditions such as flying in the sky are taken into account and the grade will rise. There's a lot of factors that are considered.”

“I see……”

“But that large Chimera was low in grade, but the value it has for material is high. When considering the material, it will probably be worth a lot because it was left fairly intact.”

“Oh ... ... so how long will it take to appraise it?”

“Ahahaha. I bet you have high hopes for the amount you're going to get, but just a heads up it's not going to go that far towards your debt.”

“Is that so? ... Ha ha ha.” He was concerned with how much his debt was going to be a problem but didn't want to seem ungrateful. (He doesn't seem like a bad person.)

“It’s good that you want to be a hunter adventurer. Hunter adventurers can earn money in the short term pretty quickly. Don't expect to land large Chimeras every day though, but I could see you had talent so that's why I invested in you, gahahaha! I'll sign the paperwork for you once we get a proper invoice in, you need to recover your physical strength in any case. You look like one of the undead, so going out in public would just be advertising that you caught a magic cold.”

“I agree.” He heard the sound of something hitting the wall and a knock at the door, and Seina sat up quickly.

“Oh, are you home already? Come on in!” Barigaru called out.

“Master, please excuse me for being late.”

(Eh!?) Seina was confused by the sight of the person walking in. “... ... Oh, is that me!?”

Standing there in different clothes was a man who looked exactly like Seina.

Chapter Four: A Feast for Those Left Behind

“Order!!” The sound of a gavel clacked.

A luxurious hall was packed with thousands, all of whom failed to hide their selfish desires and malice, they were corrupted people with gorgeous costumes and bad attitudes.

– – An outlaw who doesn't even know the manners of duel.

– – The Galactic Federation is full of rednecks.

– – Convenient that they went out when no one could see them.

– – Isn't it just convenient that they were there to show up?

— What a flashy show of vanity.

— How dare they engage in fighting acts after violating our airspace.

– – An excessive and sneaky attack on us!

– – They should have left it to our armored cavalry.

—Donate that ship and all its information!

– – We demand a large amount of compensation and an apology from the Galactic Federation!

Some were being ambitions, other's pride was hurt by those who had come from outside, and others wanted to take their power. No matter how professional they were trying to appear, their underlying motive was greed.

– – Punish those who disturbed the sanctity of the battlefield.

Kiriko kept herself dignified looking, she was upset but she hid it well. Amane, who had lived in the public eye her whole life, wasn't fazed at all.

— Solemn punishment for these intruders.

— Confiscation of all their property!

— And that Godly Knight too!

– – Of course there is also that ship!

— In addition ... ... execution!

At that moment Kiriko ran out of patience.

She was usually a mild-mannered girl, but under that lay a scary rage that had earned her the title of Cerberus. She would have shown it sooner but now she had to act as a royal figure of Jurai.

She slammed her fist down in anger on the table, which was as strong as metal, not even a tank rolling over it should have harmed it. It was 50 meters long and it was made of wood that was stronger than the hardest tree in Jurai and she broke it in half. By the way it was expensive.

× × ×

“... .... Oh wow, this isn't good, is it?” Amane whispered to Ryoko who nodded.

Of course, they had known Kiriko for a while now and were able to perceive her disturbed aura, they backed off to an area where they would be safe from her explosive fit of rage.

However, Miki alone chose to sit at Kiriko's side silently.

“That girl! How uncivilized!”

Amane kept herself from getting in the way, but she wondered whether she should pull Kiriko aside, ultimately, she decided to leave her alone.

× × ×

(... .... Ah, I broke it.) Kiriko, who felt insulted and was ready to defend Seina, was heated up but had crashed after accidentally smashing the table and as a result she seemed to be out of gas, but she was able to regain her calm. “Oh my, are you trying to threaten us?”

“What a childish thing to do.”

It put her in a bad place as far as negotiations went.

“This federation redneck seems to have no knowledge of courtesy.”

“I hear that Jurai is one of the federation's great powers over there, to think they have a princess that acts like her.”

“Ho ho ho, well that suits them, it's just a large gathering of barbarians.”

The representatives who mocked Kiriko, were from each of the five families and were in high positions.

There was a political struggle among the five houses, so these politicians were threatened by the power of other countries because they were always in a ready to fight state despite desperate negotiations to defend their own countries.

“Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!” Miki screamed on behalf of Kiriko who had lost steam.

“Hey! Shut up!”

No one knew if it was intentional or coincidental, but it was exquisitely timed.

Miki cried out in an intimidating voice; everyone was stunned. Just like a horror movie when monsters attack in a relaxed place. Even the escorts were stunned. They reflexively reached for the weapons they secretly held, which weren't permitted to be on them.

“Oh my, isn't that in bad taste?”

Miki looked back at them and smiled. Even she was being verbally attacked, such things didn't faze Miki. She was one of the auxiliary brains of the Kamidake. Even though Fuku kept the main control, she had use of several hundred million independent subsidiary systems that could easily help her deal with interpersonal warfare.

“Well, I guess we should start with the proceedings.”

“Start? Didn't you see her split that table in two? Her bare hands are weapons, which one of you has a problem with us?”

“We're here in regard to the crimes you committed. You're in no position to talk that way!”

“What's your excuse for having this demon hag here?”

Makihi was silent. The Representatives of Renza rushed behind their escort's backs.

“Huh! Hearing ... . HIMIK and the Maiden Knights should be the ones on trial, and more importantly, keeping them in check was your job. They were going to destroy Seina, I want to hear what you were planning to do. Why didn't you step in and stop the battle?”

“Ah, so you admit to the violent violation of our airspace and the attack that destroyed our Heavenly Knights!?”

“Fuck you all and especially fuck you! I know that fool robbed us of the pleasure of having a record of the battle. But ZINV and Kamidake are both owned by Seina, and in the battle when ZINV was in trouble the two became one and the power readings show that!”

*** * * Translators’ note: She literally just says a word for copulation or linking up. Twice... So, either she is saying they fused, or she is saying fuck you and also fuck you. * * ***

Miki put her hands on her back and acted like they were protruding from her chest. If her chest was flat, she would have done it the other way around, but she was a woman who was well endowed.

“As long as there's solid evidence of ZINV's battle record, it's obvious that we were attacked by the enemy so it's natural that we would fight back and most importantly, ZINV is allowed to fight outside.”

But you're only allowed within Racepshi’s airspace!”

“Then why did you approve the dual in the first place! Besides, doing so would have vaporized the Racepshi, since the battle was permitted in the first place it was just a matter of fighting the enemy! And you look exactly like the enemy, don't you? We can't be expected to know the difference during a battle like that can we?”

“Are you accusing us of being the enemy ...!?”

It was impossible to tell if HIMIK or ZINV moved first. And since HIMIK and the escort knights were caught up in the same battle it was reasonable to think that they were pirates. In other words, it wasn't illegal to take emergency measures and leave their designated air space to follow ZINV into battle.

“There's no basis for accusing us of violating the airspace and violently attacking you!”

“But, but, how about the battle!”

“The battle was supposed to be a dual!”

“The Royal Trees have a high level of intelligence and a will of their own, and if it's a first generation like ZINV, its power is that of a Godly Knight like you call it. Godly Knight is no exaggeration. It doesn't care about the rules of engagement made by human beings.”

“But it's not a god!”

“The energy value measured in that battle zone was created by the two of them fighting. Do you know anyone who can reproduce that? Are there any human beings who would be safe in such a place? If they are not gods themselves, they are at the very least beyond the limits of people. If such a fight was held close to Racepshi, this old hag and everyone on board would have been evaporated in the blink of an eye.”

“So, do you think that your violence will be forgiven for reasons, little girl!”

“Yeah! And don't think you’re safe just because the Racepshi is here! The Racepshi has already agreed to hand you over to us!”

Miki glared at them it was clear that the tables had turned. “Wow, you must be inbred as fuck to be this slow. Why do you think I haven't hesitated to speak my mind?”

“What?”

“You stupid bastards. Why do you even think we agreed to come to this farce of a hearing, because we feel bad that your precious little armored knight got turned to dust?”

“What! What do you expect to do with nothing but one small ship? Even if you can escape here, how far can you get without supplies?”

“Ahahahahaha! For the Kamidake probably to the next galaxy, if not further!”

“It can navigate between galaxies!? That's ridiculous!”

“There's no need for us to escape in any case. The Kamidake is the same type of ship as the Ryo-Ohki that rushed in on its own and completely overcame Jurai's defense capabilities. You should check the video library on Ryo-Ohki and Kamidake. You should have the battle records, see for yourself that we aren't kidding. Why would we ever be afraid of you when we have the ability to easily surpass your armored knights? You're afraid of our power and that's why you want it for yourself in the first place right?”

“You insolent girl! ... Do you want to start a war!?”

“I don't mind ...”

“W... wait a second Miki-san!?” Kiriko who was silent till then chimed in.

“... But the truth is, I know you backwater fucks are only going through with this farce because you're poor, so we'll adapt to your style to accommodate you.”

“What about our style?”

“I challenge you to a dual! Are you ok with this matter being decided by that?”

“Hah you're Godly Knight is missing; we win by default ...”

“There are other Armored Cavalry here besides ZINV, isn't that right Kiriko-san.”

“What!? It's a bit soon don't you think ... ...” Kiriko panicked with a smile on as Miki patted her on the shoulder. That's because Miki knew something that she had kept a secret from everyone.

“Haha, well this does seem interesting, so if you lose, will you fulfill all our requests unconditionally?”

“Do you really think that you're in a position to be setting the conditions?” Miki glared with a particularly cold look.

“What did you say?” Everyone else had already understood Miki's real intentions, those with doubts glared with unpleasant eyes. In other words, the difference in their capabilities was already clear.

“I don't want to explain it to you over and over. The fundamental problem that you came up with was the violation of your space by the Kamidake and the act of destroying your armored knights. But since that was a mistake on your end in the first place, you will apologize to us and put HIMIK in this same position. And you will thank us for keeping you protected from HIMIK and the Maiden Knights!”

Half of them understood Miki's intention, and half seemed to not to be aware of them yet. Miki continued on with a big sigh.

“To say sorry and thank you!?”

“There's substantial evidence that the Kamidake is a power up part of the Godly Knight ZINV, so technically the Maiden Knights and your armored knights were the ones who defiled the divine battle, weren't they?”

“I do not know why you insist on remaining ignorant, but the intent to use it should have been made known before the battle.”

It was an emergency caused an enemy assault!”

“And!?”

“It's certain that I'm new to your way of battle, but the battle was fought because of the hostages taken which belonged to both the Renza Federation as well as the Galactic Federation. So, we had no choice but to respond to the enemy's request! No one was able to do anything of that manner in such an emergency situation. There was no time to prepare in advance, or anything else... is there anything else you have to add?” Miki smiled as if she had triumphed.

“Look here little girl!”

“Oh, and there's no use trying to act like we don't have a record of what happened. Racepshi is all about entertainment. This demon hag has already managed to get recordings of everything ..... have you already aired it?”

“Makihi!” One of the leaders sent a harsh look at Makihi.

“The battle between legendary Godly Knights ... ... Of course, I did, our customers live for such a sight.”

“Gaah!” With that said they had to admit that Miki's justification was valid. In any case, it was impossible to claim their accusations were legitimate.

“... ... So, you want an apology?”

“In this situation that is inevitable, but I'm afraid there's more... What I want is full freedom of action in Renza and diplomatic privileges, plus a sufficient budget for my activities as a fee in cash, and if I lose, I'll reveal the interior makeup of the Kamidake. Of course, only within Racepshi,

I won't allow you to do a breakdown survey, but I will to some degree disclose the technology it uses."

× × ×

"Uhuhuhuh. That girl is the same as ever." Clay sat on a somewhat narrow operator chair and laughed while steering the panel with tremendous momentum while monitoring the relay from the receptionist at his side.

"... ... Do you know each other?" A man said with a clattering voice, while he kept his eyes on the dock that stored and repaired HIMIK and the Maiden Knights could be seen from a large window.

That person was wearing a black robe like a monk, but embroidered in gold thread in a variety of patterns. His face seen from the hood was covered with a Kabuki mask. His expression was invisible to the eye, but his tone was frustrated.

"We had a little trade."

"With you? You're a smart man, what could a girl like her possibly have that you'd want? You know what... I don't want to know.... Her wager seems a bit unwise, it's almost overkill."

"Would you really accept a peek at the Kamidake as betting material? Well, if you do, you've also been tricked by that girl."

"What did you just say?"

"It doesn't matter if you can access that ship. No matter how much they investigate, they won't be able to understand it. It's like showing it to a baboon."

"So... If I can understand it, then I can know the secrets of that ship ..."

"You could make your Armored Cavalry stronger, but it's pointless, even if you strengthen it, an ordinary man like you couldn't handle it."

"Forget the compliments I spoke of you. My mouth got ahead of me!"

"There are a lot of people who have money. However, those with real skills are rare, so it goes without saying, which is superior, as you can see from the results in front of you."

"You bastard!"

"If you're going to try to get that ship, then I suggest you stop. The woman named Washu Hakubi who made that is really much worse than she looks. It's definitely full of malicious traps that will escape the eyes of a rookie."

"... Ha Ha, that's because that woman is better than you." He started to make counter attacks and was no longer trying to conceal his emotions.

“You see in philosophy, it's about whether what one is doing is interesting or not. Only an idiot marks first place on a series of lines that stretch to infinity.”

“You're such a rude person!”

At last, the man being scolded behind the mask had pulled out a sword from his pocket, but he found himself frozen in place. “... What did you do... ... ... to me?”

“Did you think that would work? A knife? Really? Might as well try stabbing me with a toy.” Clay smiled at HIMIK and the Maiden knight as if to curse the masked man. “Hmm... that boy Seina, he sure has a lot of money...”

“... ... You bastard... ... that's our enemy ...”

“Don't lump us together. I'm merely providing technology for a price. I don't care who you're hostile towards, I only care if they have money.”

An “incompetent ally” is truly more horrible than a “competent enemy”

“Now then……”

“Wait ... ... Wait! ... Where ... Where are you going?”

“I finished doing everything I can, it's up to your technicians from here. I'm leaving to get some fresh air.”

“What and you're just going to leave me ... ... like this?”

“I've set it to let you go in 5 hours. If I were you, I would just sit back and enjoy the peace and quiet.

× × ×

The place where Clay came out of the transfer gate wasn't as bright as Jurai, but it was a place where you could see the jungle and huge waterfalls as well as lakes and dense forests of trees. Although you couldn't see the whole building from where he was, the east side with the gate was all wooden, and it was like a jungle cabin.

“I was waiting, Dr. Clay-sama.” A collared black fur bikini wearing brunette with a short bob haircut said, she was a beautiful girl with eyes that boldly praised and greeted Dr. Clay.

“It's hard work, Lazana.” He didn't mean the labor, but the hatred.

She was an exclusive companion for Clay, a person he kept attached to him when using the 'special facilities' here. During the contracted period she was set to care for him in both public and private, and of course the party at night fell into that category, but Clay refused that. However, as a rule she was to always be by his side. He chose her because she was a calm woman who didn't get in the way. It was by no means Clay's fetish.

(Women are troublesome) were his thoughts on the matter. But he didn't like having half naked men on the side, he would have to keep them as far as possible, and it would just make him self-conscious if anything.

“Your dinner is ready in the usual room.”

“Yes, why don't you change your clothes?”

Costumes suitable for the occasion were required here. He changed from a simple robe to a leopard fur pattern. He took off his shoes and put on sandals knitted from grass. Clay didn't enjoy this and wasn't able to hide his dissatisfied facial expressions, but Lazanna didn't seem to care at all.

They crossed a suspension bridge as high up as the top of a skyscraper building, which was built in a huge tree. They were going to a jungle palace shaped like hornet's nest. Although it was stable and didn't shake it was certainly not relaxing to walk upon.

They entered the largest lounge there. On the floor was soft grass that muted their footsteps. There, in the middle stage, half-naked men and women in primitive outfits were dancing. Around them were a few companions, breast grabbing, and crotch groping could be seen between many of them although, but in principle such acts were banned here. They soon took their companions off to another place.

“Hmpf!” Clay disliked the shallowness of the ongoings, he headed upstairs. On the top floor was a series of small private rooms on the branches and leaves of the big tree, Clay went into one.

Lazanna put a lot of dishes on a big tray and warmed up the food in a furnace before Clay. The amount was quite large for a single person to eat alone.

“Here you go.” She poured a pale peachy liquid into a wooden jug for Dr. Clay.

“I'll serve it myself, please go back downstairs.” He wanted to get rid of Lazanna and get her out of his way. As she left Clay finally became calm and started eating.

“The delicious sushi is this places only saving grace.” Clay acted like he was eating for the first time in his life, devouring the meals lined up there one after another. Lazanna came back in.

“Clay, you have a customer.”

“A customer? ... ... Hmm!” He looked at the tray she brought him, there was a black card from which the patterns of Jurai, and specifically the Kamiki family emerged.

“... Very well. Let them in,” Clay said, without looking at Lazana.

“Not that I care but ... why do you seem so dissatisfied?” The black card was a money card used for off the grid trades.

“It was enough for me to see your face at mealtime, but do you have to go showing off your figure.” It was Kuisu Panta, who greeted him dressed as a bunny girl with Lazanna.

“Being greeted in such a way is a rarity, those down below would eat me like wolves if they could.”

“Because they're carnivorous beasts with a bad taste ... to them, a meal is a meal!”

The vibe of Kuisu, who suddenly took a baked chicken's thigh and bit it down to the bone, was the opposite of her lovely costume. She was just like the carnivorous beast Dr. Clay spoke of.

“You're worse than a carnivorous beast. You're eating my meal!”

“Do you have any additional demands?”

“Yes! Quit eating my meal”

“Oh, and what are you going to give me to eat instead Clay?”

*** * * Translators’ note: I wish I understood more of this discussion because it’s a back-and-forth insult fest and I abridged it. * * ***

“Do you always pay such a high payment for a Question-and-Answer session? If so, I really feel sympathy towards your accounting department.”

“Wow ... ... It's a rare sight to see you with a woman, I guess that clears up some rumors.”

“Is that the only reason you're here?”

“There are tons of pretty young staff members here as well, so why have you hired her exclusively? Are you afraid you're going to end up with a bad experience?”

“If you’re done eating, then please leave!”

“Yeah yeah, fine. Let's get down to business. So, you were the one who gave them that technology after all weren't you?”

“That girl Miki gave it to me as payment, I don't care how they use the technology. Obviously, that wasn't enough for what she required of me. I'm just trying to make up for the shortfall, nothing wrong with that is there?”

“Regardless of the results, it's a trick that only works once, but it's still painful to see it brought to the table.”

“Even if it only gets one chance, it could have easily killed, but luckily for you it didn't seem to work.”

“So, what you’re saying is they don't know where Seina went?”

“They have no idea. And well, with respect to the paint bullets that they already had. It was used by Tarrant's people before after all.”

“Seina was its first victim, and has dealt with it many times, so I'm sure he was able to deal with it.”

“If the Maiden Knights hadn't been wrecked, it would have been a dangerous situation. Well, my client is devastated thanks to that Seina fellow.”

“And you sure are profiting from that aren't you?”

“Their incompetence is the cause of their failure, and those among them who don't recognize that are also causing them to fail. They're blaming their bad results on their technology, but really most of the people in the group are incompetent. Thanks to that girl though, I've been contacted by many interested parties so there are always other opportunities.”

The Kamidake was one of them.

“Oh, there are still more big fish left?”

“Surely you joke. It's rough, they seem to be obsessed.”

*** * * Translators’ note: I'm 99% sure this is a double speak section. Many machine translators are picking up on this when I put it through, and the subtext seems confirmed at the end, but I can't see it when I go word for word. * * ***

“So... I'm guessing you're still mad at Washu... do you still want revenge?”

*** * * Translators’ note: Revenge here can also mean a do over. * * ***

“I do not! I mean that from the bottom of my heart! I have decided I want no part in anything Naja Akara and Washu Hakubi are up to! They are pestilence gods. Devil women who would only waste my money!”

“Yes... but... Naja Akara has died, don't you know that?”

“You don't know the woman they call Naja Akara. She is far worse than Washu. She's an evil woman who loves to make a scene. I refuse to believe she's dead, it's been 5,000 years since they thought Washu died and she's still alive now, isn't she?”

“Well maybe... But wouldn't that be a bit coincidental. I bet that would make you a little nostalgic...”

“The only thing that they remind me of is the era of my greatest bout of bad luck, it was a terrible point in my life!”

“Well, I don't think she hates you ... But well, I understand your feelings about her ... ...” Kuisu looked away and bit down to the bone on some thigh meat.

“Why are you talking as if you know Naja?”

“They are plenty of records and data on her.”

“Oh, by the way you also have a similar person named Seto where you live, if you imagine her being even more childish and restless then you have Naja.”

“I... Is that so ... That sounds dreadful.... Doesn't it.”

Although he was certainly approaching the truth, he didn't reach it not because he was unable to, but only because he unconsciously stopped himself from reaching the conclusion. In other words, he really didn't want to be involved with them from the bottom of his heart.

(I'm not going to be tsundere about it, but I'm a bit lonely as someone with the same memory as her.) All memories became nostalgic memories with the years ... Honestly, she was grateful for his opinion because she really didn't want to involve Clay. He was a troublesome person to make an enemy of.

“Were you asked to try to find Seina?”

“That's their job.”

“Are they confident in their information network? I can't see you missing out on making money that way.”

“Searching for people isn't what I do. I only provide a way to find it, and they said that was unnecessary.”

“What a shame.”

“I'd ask if you came here to try to get me to help you find and capture them, but you're clearly the kind of person who's like a fox. You want to hunt them down and catch them as they try to escape.”

“Oh, I'm surprised, how could you tell?”

Clay was quite competent at evaluating others. “I know how it feels to be swayed by a troublesome woman like you. Kukukuku, and as for that Seina boy, letting him wonder around here and there is quite a profitable venture for you isn't it.”

“That's absolutely true.”

At any rate Seina drew troubles and simultaneously destroyed and accelerated stagnation. Just like in the Galactic Federation he caused a fuss as soon as he came to Renza. Miki's fight would only accelerate them towards Kiriko's first goal in her plan for Renza.

“The battle that that little Miki girl set is going to be interesting in so many ways.”

“True... ... There probably won't be any problem.”

“Probably is a subtle phrase, well you might as well kill some time while you're here.”

× × ×

*** * * Translators’ note: This section is confusing even though I think I fixed it up. I think they are talking about Misui wanting to have both an arranged wife and mistress as was fairly common, especially amongst French royalty. * * ***

“Ah ah ah ah ah ah ... ... I want to die already!” 3rd prince of the Suire Kingdom, Misui Suire said. He leaned against the window as if he was seasick, his face turned blue.

“You enjoyed it last night.” Said the 10th Prince of the Kasen Kingdom, Jitsuki Ren Kasen, with a smile with no ill will. Like an older brother who looked after his younger brother would.

“If you die now, at least it'll be at your peak.” 6th Royal Prince of the Kasen Kingdom, Rotsuka Akeno Kasen said in an expressionless but serious tone.

“The peak of embarrassment! Make fun all you, wasn't its true for you too?” He shouted at his two friends while tears floated in the corner of his eyes.

Strangely, the place where these three people were meeting was just next to the nest where Clay was located. Only about 50 meters away, but its appearance and sound were completely blocked by branches and leaves. The interior was somewhat different from the Clay's nest, but the furnishings were still made of wood, stone and fur matched to the place. Their costumes were also leather and fur trimmed long sleeveless shirts with leather belting.

“Well don't forget the reason we came to Racepshi ... Your father gave you orders to build a base of activity here.”

Unlike a temporary quarters Clay was in, the upper rank of Renza often used this place as a secret base of activity, and it was often used to gather together local staff. They liked being assigned here with the elite who had many players.

“Certainly, I'm getting ahead of myself, but the situation is the situation.”

“It’s okay bro, relax your brain muscles. Why don't you consult your policy secretaries?”

“The second cavalry's brother group was about to drop out of the third place, the upper right seat. That's why you're in a hurry, isn't it?”

The owner, who was shown as a picture on the stage at the Renza Central Conference was the next secession candidate, he shared the same name as the person currently in power.

“If it went well, I would've been able to aim for the first place easily, such a wonderful failure.”

“Was it really so important? It's a problem that you don't find it strange at the time that my father and other brothers decided not to make their move in the first place. They didn't want you to succeed so they threw in the towel.”

“But in order to come to the Racepshi, it's quicker to go through the dormitory, and you can move in secret. After this will you be studying there for the future?”

“Even if you think that I'm acting too soon, there's no choice for me but to follow my father's orders, it's about time for my fiancée to be decided, it'll be judged that there's no problem if there's no difference.”

Withered wives and side rooms, mistresses and others tended to be a savage seed when they lived side by side. It was a complex mystery mixed with the speculation allowed by each woman's backing. Even more, if it was one that ended up having a child, it would become a seed of considerable trouble.

“But it's true that when you come here, you'll find out what women are like. I'd take it seriously if I were you.”

“Before I use this place in the future, that person will be in charge for a long time, in a sense, it will be natural for them to be the first and last women we can choose from.”

Even if they were called royals, they wouldn't become royalty unless they became adults and ranked second or third. Depending on the circumstances, the families of their fiancés may out rank them, and whether or not they could have a side room depended on the woman who became owner of the primary room.

Of course, it was possible to surround oneself with concubines secretly. But if you were outside of the royal family, you wouldn't be able to use the maintenance organization of the royal family that you could use otherwise, so obviously you'd lack a strong information network.

“... But can you tell me why don't I have an option to choose?” Misui's companion was already decided for him.

“Hey Misui ... When you say such that, I feel pity for my maid Ms. Komekitsune.”

“Misui ... ... isn't that a bit...?”

“... ... ... When did you notice?” Finally, Misui surrendered to the two's serious gazes. Actually, his partner was a woman who was also Jitsuki's private tutor and caregiver, she was also Misui's first.

“That time when you first came to visit my house. Of course, it wasn't only me, but mother and Ms. Murasaki noticed.”

“Mother and ... ...Ms. Murasaki!?

“Both of them asked me about it, that's how I know. Oh, by the way, I'm relieved because my father, older brother, and the rest of them don't know.”

“It's as good as if they know... Or rather, are you saying they aren't going to do anything about it?” Misui was sad and almost cried.

“It's okay, you know my mother and Mrs. Murasaki are in sync, right?”

“Since kindergarten all the way through high school.”

“My mother is of the opinion that we are indebted to her, and that's why they made her and her mother my caretaker in the first place.”

“Eh?” It was an unexpected fact that he hadn't known.

“There will be no problem as long as you keep it private. Komekitsune is the fourth daughter of a Baron's family, so her parents were reluctant to marry her off. She would have been single for the rest of her life; they were hoping to do something about it.”

“But, in such circumstances, she should have had her marriage arranged by participating in a matchmaking party.”

“Komekitsune belongs to the student council and dormitory management association. It's common for lower aristocratic children to help with their operations. But in reality, it seems like she's also serving as the student council president and the dormitory manager. Moreover, because she was the top of the class for her grade, she's had no time for marriage activities. Her parents also don't have any money for her dowry set aside. They can support 3 girls but not 4.

In the case of aristocrats, they try to marry into a house with a good home and a high-status family, so they required a large dowry. From the viewpoint of income, a house with a low ranking was said to lose a rank if it couldn't be maintained as if three women lived in the household.

“If she's that good, shouldn't someone have proposed to her already?”

“It seems that she was so talented that she's distanced herself from all the men.”

“Why!?”

“Her seriousness and ability...”

“You know how she is, don't you...?”

“Well ... ...”

“Are you ok with it Jitsuki?”

“She's like a second mother to me, I want to see her happy. She won't need to be my tutor much longer, so if you hadn't shown interest, she might have ended up married to my older brothers once she stopped being my tutor and I prefer she didn't.”

“At any rate we need to go out there and expand our personal connections. The way things are going, we’re going to need it.”

“Speaking of which, what happened to Seina Yamada? Is he dead ...?”

“Just missing, the possibility of his survival is overwhelmingly high considering his past career. I wonder if the Galactic Federation is looking for him.”

“I hear that their largest pirate guild collapsed. The pirates that had been hiding at the boundary with them have noticeably been weakened, but ... honestly, I think a direct confrontation with them would still end up quite badly.”

“I can understand why my older sister went over there, we should have accepted Seina Yamada at an earlier stage, if they had come on their original timetable it would have been easy but it's premature for this regime.”

“And the starting results of her experimental unit weren't that good, were they?”

“However, as a result, we dragged out the Armored Cavalry of the Maiden Knights who were unconfirmed up to now and HIMIK too, but the poor outcome of that is going to pose a problem for them.”

“It certainly is. Don't they say, “Chaos is the proper state in this world”? If so, it's natural to perceive the existence of Seina Yamada as the same as the Godly Knight itself, because he is obviously a person whose existence destroys chaos.”

“Either way, the other Godly Knight must have seen him as a threat. That's the only explanation I can think of for why the Maiden Knights would come out of hiding ...”

Despite not being asked by anyone, they got closer to each other and began to whisper. Just because this place was also a place to play, didn't mean no one could be watching.

“I was thinking the same thing, I was also worried about how rushed it seems.”

“Honestly, if it were me, I would think that their pirate hunting was a pointless matter. The activities of Maiden Knights are quite different from the pirates. I don't know why they even attacked. I'd say maybe it's a territorial thing but honestly that doesn't make sense either, but I'm drawing a blank on any other reason.”

“But for them to attack at this time was very much an over-the-top act...”

“Even if it was a territorial thing, Renza is pretty large, and Seina's team hadn't even taken any territory. The risk of getting kicked out of Renza for taking on such a non-threat was too big.”

“One thing I can say for sure is that their organization is bigger and deeper than I ever thought. It's not normal to have cavalry of that class let alone 6 of them. The real question should be how it got here and where it ran off too.”

“It was rumored that there's a secret society that supports the Maiden Knights, now that we know they exist it's as good as proven so it must be quite large. Don't you agree?”

“How did they get the parts for the Knights...? Oh, who's there...?”

Because of its structure, the building had a floor that echoed. Of course, it could be considered an intentional feature, but even if you walked quietly, it sounded quite loud.

“I will excuse you in the event of a meeting, in case of emergency.”

There was Komekitsune wearing the same bunny costumes as Kuisu Panta. She had gotten a job at Racepshi so she could be around Misui. Her outfit was different though, it had black fur and was designed like a butler's outfit without sleeves. It had a big open back that tapered down to show a bit of ass cleavage but she was hiding that with her long chestnut hair.

Actually, she may have been a little bit shy of her body because she had beast and dwarves' blood, but even so it didn't affect her genetics much. She didn't have abnormal ears or anything, it only affected her overall body shape and ear positioning. She was smaller than the average person.

“Sorry to bother you, but it’s urgent.”

“Oh!?”

“What's up?”

“The date and time of the duel has been decided for tomorrow.”

“Eh!?” He was distracted by her outfit at first but quickly switched into work mode. “Do you think they did that to call their bluff so they would pack up shop and leave?”

“I can see that...”

“But wasn't the other side the one who requested the dual?”

“Yes, But Seina Yamada is still missing, so maybe they want them out before he can be found.”

“They don't want them taking their time.... So... did my brother send you with any instructions for me?”

“Yes. To investigate and report on the details of the enemy's defenses.”

“Let him know that I'm not sure of anything just yet.”

“Can you get me in touch with your sisters?”

“I've already made an appointment.”

“Very good. As expected, thank you Komekitsune... is something wrong? Jitsuki tilted his head mysteriously to the unusual expression she was making.

“Ms. Magiyoku (Gyokuren) is being acknowledged as Queen soon. You need to go meet with her.”

“..... What?!” All of the guys yelled as their mouths hung open.

“... ... I tried to protect you from having to go, but... that is what he wanted me to tell you.”

“... ... I’d rather go to hell! Do I really have to go!?”

“In this case, it's easier to go versus the alternative.”

“I don't want to go! I'm not afraid of my brother... but the Witch Queen...” But he had to go.

*** * * Translators’ note: This entire book is impossible for me to understand specifics of the text exactly because of how it’s written and how badly it machine translates or even dictionary translates. There's a lot of English unfriendly sentences which don't 1 for 1 translate over... So, remember, if it’s a dull section not focusing on the girls or Seina like this stupid Misui section, it’s an adaption and I've simply fudged specifics and cut minor lines in order to get the plot from point a to b. Nothing of value is lost. * * ***

Chapter Five: The Meeting

Komekitsune rushed Jitsuki and the others to a facility dedicated to the Renzan Royal Families. A large annex from the Palace Heaven's Amusement Park called the Sakura Bud which was mostly used by the Kaou.

“Ahahaha.... Oh my, you've all grown up so much.” Gyokuren said, the moment Rotsuka stepped in.

The reason why Gyokuren, who was usually quiet, greeted him was the same reason she had called them here. Because she was becoming the first new queen of the 5 nations. She wanted to meet her fellow royals and speak with them. She took her duties seriously.

“Cousin… … Komekitsune looks well. She seems to have a softer atmosphere to her then I remember her having before.”

“It's been a long time since you saw her last. I'm glad you’re finally back safely. I hope you get great results on your current endeavors... er, um...”

“If you like, you can still call me by my Alias. You're in a hurry to get past this formal greeting stage too, aren't you?”

“Yes... Thank you, Lady Gyokuren.”

They went up the stairs by the entrance and went to the end of the central passage into the private living room. In the room wasn't a large table but rather sofas arranged in a u-shape so you could chat while looking at the garden.

“Come, sit down, we can start things right away.”

The Kaou's furniture was made out of wood like Jurai's. The difference was that they didn't have trees as big so their logs for wood were rather small in comparison.

“……”

Each sofa had a small tea table next it, which was for two people. It had been prepared for them at the entrance.

“Well, I give up... At this rate everyone will know our secret soon anyways.”

For a moment Misui was hesitant to sit down with Komekitsune when Jitsuki and Rotsuka rushed to take both of the individual sofas leaving the two confused.

In a way it was like a confession, Komekitsune urged Misui to sit with her on the two-person sofa.

“You came here to talk about tomorrow's battle, right?”

She was told of the situation by Hakuren. The boys seemed relieved to have been spared the awkwardness of bringing this up.

”Yes, I'd like it if you co-operated as much as possible, I know it's not a pleasant subject ... Honestly, I expected you to decline to answer...”

“I'll cooperate as much as I can, but the only thing you’re going to get out of preparation for the dual is being disappointed in advance.”

“Of course, you'd say that... Well, we don't expect that much, but we know you're well acquainted with them.”

“Yes, I am a friend of Ms. Kiriko, but I don't know anything about the Armored Cavalry she will use tomorrow.”

“Are you refusing to answer?”

“No. I mean, I don't know anything about it because it just arrived. Kiriko-sama and the others still haven't opened up the box it came in.”

“... Huh? But the duel is tomorrow!?” Jitsuki and the others were stunned.

× × ×

“... Kiriko, is the duel tomorrow?”

“Yes, tomorrow. Tomorrow.”

“Our recklessness sure has gotten us into a bind.”

“You'd better do something about this thing in front of you. Kiriko-san.”

In a special dock and a huge workshop in the back, Kiriko and the rest stared at a large container in front of them as if they were stunned, but they got to work as soon as Neiju complained.

The container itself was a GP-standard container for ordinary transportation, but the seal could only be opened by Kiriko's personal data. Kiriko approached the seal panel at the bottom of the center of the container, she touched it and followed the instructions to start opening it.

× × ×

“They’re going into tomorrow’s dual without even looking at the thing!?” All of the boys’ faces were puzzled rather than ecstatic. It was like trying to take a final exam without ever attending a class.

“My brother will be happy to hear that but…”

“Kiriko and the others are used to these kinds of troubles, and it's been guaranteed by the person who built the Armored Cavalry for Kiriko-sama, that there will be no problem.”

“Is that Washu Hakubi person really as good as my sister says? I'm afraid to take their words seriously. Can they really make a decent Armored Cavalry with the technology over there?”

Misui and the others felt uncomfortable because they had assumed Hakuren was lying.

“I'll admit that their cavalry that fought the Maiden Knights had plenty of power, but a dual also depends on the pilots’ skills, there's no point in having power if you can't land an attack.”

In the first place, the mechanical complexity of spacecraft and humanoid robots was different by orders of magnitude. It was natural for them to be skeptical about how well someone with no concept of how to use humanoid weapons would be able to pilot one.

“I thought you weren't poisoned by the Armored Cavalry cult’s fanaticism because you're still young and against the mainstream ways of things, but if that's how you see things...” Karen scolded him.

“I can't help it. All the information we have on things over there is just tenuous rumors we get from those on Racepshi.”

“But you always try to get the right information without prejudice.”

“I understand. I'll keep it in mind.”

“... And that's Washu Hakubi's domain?”

“It's related, but it doesn't refer to any individual. It's the organization of a large-scale school called the Galactic Academy, an organization that combines many research facilities into one. It's a gathering of experts from all over the Galactic Federation. In addition, there's a department that consolidates the greatest among their intellectuals, those who are called true geniuses. Washu-sama is said to be their greatest member.”

“Renza also has a central academy.” Misui bragged, but that was just a natural response. Hakuren acknowledged that.

“The scale is completely different, and it's not just the nobles and their teachers who gather there.”

In addition to the aristocracy, Renza's Central Academy was home to an elite selected few from schools throughout Renza. Komekitsune wanted to say that it was quality that was important not quantity.

“Of course, I'm saying that with that in mind. The department that fosters selected geniuses from among them is called the Department of Philosophy, and its purpose is to consider the comprehensive use of technology. Things that are unique in individual technologies are often combined with other technologies to create unexpected innovations.”

“However, it's also true that there are many things that they don't release due to self-interest, speculation, etc. However, those who graduated from the Department of Philosophy are recognized with special status and have the privilege of viewing all the technical information accumulated in the Galaxy Academy. Given that the Galaxy Academy has top-class research facilities, the technology that is concentrated there is the greatest in the Galactic Federation.”

“Certainly, when you have the ability to understand them and innovate, there's a good chance you're accumulating awesome technology. It's an ideal environment in a way.”

“But can they really just build an Armored Cavalry so quickly? That sounds suspect to me sister.” The four boy's eyes gathered towards Hakuren all at once with a mix of interest and fear.

“In the first place, only a small part of the technology made by a philosopher is ever made public. Even the technologies used by the military are thousands of years old. Washu's innovations are all over 10,000 years old.”

“But besides the military, it's possible to produce and mass-produce in the private sector, and when it comes to solving cost-effectiveness issues, some time is needed. Ten thousand years is indeed some time... how old is that person?”

“The official record confirms that she's at least 20,000 years old. It's proof that they've had advanced life-prolonging technology for quite some time.”

“..... Is this person some kind of ancient dragon?” The four boys were more than surprised.

“Just because you can't divert things for military use doesn't mean you can't put it into practical use. Philosophers are also those who judge whether the technology is good or ethically problematic. So, as with life-prolonging technology, there are many advances which aren't public because of the ethics of their personal use.”

“She made the Ryo-Ohki and the Kamidake didn't she? Both ships are of a fantasy level from our perspective. Miki-sama said at the trial that it had intergalactic sailing abilities and it wasn't a joke or a bluff.”

“ZINV-sama seems to have been investigated by Washu, and everyone remembers what we reported seeing on Earth don't they?”

“Oh, there was that, too.”

“Is Earth a planet in the Federation?” Misui, who was interested began to talk about the matter instead of furthering the conversation.

“It's Mr. Yamada's home planet. It's an early-stage civilization, and it's just recreational fiction, but there were quite a few primitive video works that show giant humanoid weapons.”

““Eh!?” The four boys seemed to be most surprised by this information.

“Does it mean that Seina Yamada originally had an idea of how to pilot an armed cavalry?”

“The conclusion of the Galactic Federation was that that was the reason why Seina easily adapted to using ZINV.”

“It looks like it's fun.”

“That's right. Over there they call them Mechas. There was also a video library in the Kamidake, so Washu obviously knows about them. Of course, it's the same with Kiriko who's from the same planet. In other words, they understand the concept of Armored Cavalry combat...”

Surprisingly, this information seemed to have just clicked in the boys.

“But what are they using as a power unit? It doesn't matter if they can build one, we have the best output rates you can think of.”

“Renza's first five holy machines were all third generations. They have the tree of the royal family over there and we don't. In other words, all the rest of our units are fourth generation and lower. Washu-sama built the Ryo-Ohki which was able to take on multiple trees of the first generation, as powerful as ZINV, so the power of whatever she makes should be considered in the Godly Knight class.”

“If it's anything like Ryo-Ohki and the Kamidake, it will definitely be an all-round well-made Armored Cavalry.”

“It might go beyond the concept we have of Armored Cavalry, right?”

“.....” They agreed with the girls.

“An overpowered Godly Knight class, wow ... ... that's a terrifying thought.”

“Then the only problem would be the pilot. Even a high-performance Armored Cavalry, is a dud with a bad operator.”

“Even if they have an auto battle feature for assisting them, there's probably not enough data on how to fight.”

“But... isn't their data on ZINV?”

“That's from prehistoric civilization.”

“On the other hand, I can grantee that if my older brother relies on auto-battle he'll lose.” Karen swatted down her brother's optimistic opinion.

“But the battle data is from every battle they've ever had to fight in Renza isn't it?”

“You guys should just listen with your heart.” Hakuren stared at her brother with serious eyes.

“The power of the pirates, which was a major obstacle to exchange between the Renza Union and the Galactic Federation, is rapidly weakening. Exchange between the two will happen in the future regardless of what happens. The problem is that Renza has almost no accurate information on the other side. That's a really horrible thing. We responded to the meeting not because we were forced to do so, but because we wanted people to know a little about the Galactic Federation.”

“Do you think there's really such a large difference in power?”

“Jurai is one of the two great powers over there... In a sense, it is our frank impression that they are the strongest military state we've seen. Their power and knowledge, as I explained earlier, has expanded and developed that power more than we'd ever imagined. And the presence of Seina Yamada accelerated it even more than they could've imagined.”

“That's what surprised the royal family of Jurai most, because their plan was estimated to take hundreds or thousands of years and it came true in a few years.”

“The enormous amount of force and expenses that was being used to combat piracy, and the economic effects of eliminating the threat of pirates, are immeasurable. And above all, we should be interested in the existence of Jurai in the first place.”

“Because of the Royal Trees that you talked about earlier?”

“Yes. But first of all, it's important to know about those from Jurai. The Juraians are a combat driven culture of soldiers, the whole nation is adept in fighting. Moreover, that is a characteristic which becomes stronger with the aristocracy and the royal family. The members of the royal family that I know are specially bio-reinforced and are all martial arts masters.”

“The woman who is going to be in tomorrow's duel is a member of the royal family, isn't she? No way, she's a martial arts master?!”

“Yes. I'm afraid so.” Gyokuren confirmed.

“..... I'm scared.”

“.....”

“Ahahaha... I advise you to tell your older brothers to refrain from making any insults about Seina Yamada near Kiriko. Anyone who makes such a remark will regret his carelessness. If I were them, I'd get a head start on running away from Kiriko-sama.”

“Gyokuren-sama... Is it really that bad?”

“Especially when it comes to a dual, she won't show any mercy if they do something like that; and in an Armored Cavalry made by Washu-sama for Kiriko-sama..... There could be a fatal accident.”

(That's bad... My brother is going to have to improvise.)

It was likely they would taste humiliation in various ways in this duel, and it was possible they could never shake off the fall out of their losing if it was really bad. But the prevailing attitude was to look down on your opponents and to try to mentally shake them with words and actions.

“In other words, the other party's pilot should be considered a quasi-expert class pilot...”

“No, think of her as a master class operator. It's likely her main weapon will be a spear.”

“Are you sure?”

“That's not a secret or anything it's a well-known quirk of the Juraians. All of the royals there own a third generation, which is equivalent to The First Five Holy Machines of Renza, or higher and they're rooted in their units and grown naturally unlike the Five Holy Machines.”

“Does that mean that there are many units over there that have the power close to the highest rank here?”

“Yes. And this is important information, but the trees of the royal family have a clear will. ZINV is the same, but the first and second-generation Royal Trees decide who will be their partners of their own volition. In other words, the Royal Trees and units are treated differently and the way of thinking of them is different here than it is over there.”

“Even here we have an attachment to our Armored Cavalry ... but that means that theirs is more intimate. Indeed, that's awkward.”

“What do you mean?”

“It's impossible to control a Godly Knight, which means that the act of stealing the Godly Knight from Seina Yamada is dangerous.”

“The unit has a will...”

“Does it? I've never heard of such a story. But sometimes I hear something like that as gossip, but it's on the same level as a ghost story.”

“Even so, there are surprisingly many Kaou’s who have such an impression. I believe you. If you tell us, then must be so.” The boys paid their respects and left.

Chapter Six: The Night Before the Duel

“Hmm... You want me to take responsibility?” Ekushito sat at the office desk in the manager's room and put away the documents.

The successor to the crown and Jitsuki's brothers came to intimidate him. He sat on the furniture in a rather rude fashion while some of them leaned back against the wall near the entrance of the door and sent a grinning glance to Ekushito.

(Well, well... they’re more like debt-collecting thugs then a royal family.) Ekushito didn't change his expression, but inwardly he smiled wryly at their juvenile act.

“We ordered that the sinners were to be handed over, didn't we?”

“Sinners? Hah... Which one are you referring to?”

“Don't act so naive! Kiriko and her accomplices! They are villains who violated our territory and damaged our armored Cavalry!”

“In Racepshi, no matter what sin you commit, you're all-important customers unless you break the rules here. So, in any case, we won't be responding to requests for extradition. However, with regard to this time, Kiriko-sama wanted to work with Renza, so I felt that it was necessary to talk with everyone. So, I prepared a place for them to talk. However, even with this, it was a gray zone that was quite close to black, and customers in various fields have already scolded me.”

“You said that you made the concessions there, do you really think we will accept such justification?”

“And what if, for example, I handed you over to the people you call pirates in your area.”

“What are you talking about ...?” The next of crown suddenly changed his expression.

“To the pirate's side you're an enemy, a criminal ... if I was told to deliver you to them ... how would you feel about me complying with their request?”

“Chhh... ... you! ... Oooo ... I'm going to do this ... if only for the sake of doing it to you ... ...”

“Don't misunderstand us just because we're a planet for pleasures and entertainment. There's a reason Renza Federation, Galactic Federation, and pirates, let us sail freely in their airspace, maybe you would like to sit and think a bit more about why they do that.”

“Why they let you float here and there ..... in this shitty little ship ... ... ferrying unscrupulous people ..... is beyond me.”

“Of course, we turn a blind eye to our customer's business, I won't deny that. But this is a clearly independent nation, and it's free sailing because we have that level of power and it's acknowledged by the various nations. And this facility is the center of this nation's government, even if it's a bit cramped.”

“What!”

In other words, Ekushito's headquarters were the headquarters of the state, and the Next of Crown had just illegally invaded into its center. The Next of Crown was also a Prince, but Ekushito was more than that, which was also a problem. He didn't realize it, but it was an act that could develop into an international problem.

“Well ... Regarding this time, we feel that the Godly Knight vs. Godly Knight event has plenty more to it that remains undigested in various ways, so think of this as fasting. I gave Kiriko a little guidance to make sure you don't misunderstand. Depending on how you see the discussion, you have already achieved the results you want.”

Kiriko's side was ready to be handed over as criminals. So, if their side could successfully win their negotiated terms, there was a possibility that they'd get everything they wanted.

“You have no spine. I can't help but be brave, but I'd like you to be a little more serious.”

“You son of a bitch!”

“It isn't an ideal situation but as a result, I'm grateful for the fact you've help arranged for such a wonderful new event. So...” Ekushito turned on a monitor where Kiriko and others stood in front of their new cavalry. It wasn't a secret feed, rather it was from some kind of interview.

“Isn't this your purpose for coming here?”

“Oh!?” Being deceived by Ekushito was secondary, trying to find out about Kiriko's new Armored Cavalry was their first priority.

× × ×

“Hey, Miki-san. What's the meaning of this?”

In front of Kiriko and the others was Miki, standing with a little wry smile on accompanied by a woman.

The container sent by Washu was supposed to be opened only by the four girls because they didn't know what kind of confidential technology was inside of it. It was enclosed in a special foam container. Although it was a commonly used thing, it was actually developed by Washu in the first place, so they were probably over thinking things when they assumed it was confidential, but they were also surprised that Miki was there because it wasn't supposed to be possible for her to intrude into that area.

“Oh no, don't get angry at Miki, I asked her to bring me here.”

Kiriko and Miki's conversation was interrupted by a woman who brought in multiple camera probes, like a female field reporter.

“Oh, sorry for the delayed introduction I am Maimu Racepshi.”

*** * * Translators' note: All of Makihi's kids are named after their birth order, Mai means dancer and mu is 6. * * ***

"So does that mean you're one of Makihi's dance princesses?"

"Haha no, I can't dance to save my life..." Her attitude was very different from Makihi's, but it was clear from her appearance that she was related.

"You know I'm going to have to decline an interview, didn't Miki tell you that?"

"Well, that's true I did ... but ..."

My sincerest apologies but I am desperate for this scoop!"

"Look, if a large adult drops to the floor in tears in front of you and begs you ... ..."

"... ... I thought that was the case, but ... no ... there's no way I'm letting you broadcast this." Kiriko also noticed that Maimu's eyes were little red, her make-up was messed up, and her nose was still a bit runny. (But still she managed to convince Miki.)

Miki was a pretty a solid person, she had to deal with her father's selfish schemes since she was young. And she was similar in temper to Tsukiko, so it was quite a feat to get past her.

"This battle is the second act of the battle between the two Godly Knight, it's an historic duel! And you're about to roll out the first Armored Cavalry in history made by the Galactic Federation. And it's entirely original unlike the excavated Godly Knight ZINV, interest in the scoop is booming around the universe. It's essential someone cover it the night before the battle!"

"I understand your reasons, but ... why is Ms. Makihi's daughter doing this?"

"Actually, I suck as a dancer ... but I love to watch dancers themselves, I want to do a job related to recording them."

"So, you became a journalist?"

"Yes, but it's just me and I've had trouble getting officially hired ... Even when I offer to work for free... But this time I managed to get a special sponsor to let me cover the big event and the mysterious Armored Cavalry unveiling. So, this is my last chance!"

"I see why Miki caved," Ryoko said.

"Isn't that so? Why don't we show her the GP container?"

"Well ... Ok but watch out for danger. You do this at your own risk, you have to promise not to complain no matter what. We'll let you stay until the container is open. But in the future please consult with us beforehand."

"Oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh! Thank you very much!"

Maimu started correcting her makeup with a quickness that made it feel like she was used to this. Her image suddenly changed.

“Good evening! I'm assailant reporter Maimu Racepshi and today I'm coming live from the secret dock that contains the hot topic on the mind of everyone not only in Racepshi, but Renza and the Galactic federation, The unveiling of the Federations first ever Armored Cavalry! We've got an exclusive interview with special permission!”

“... ... Oh, I understand why she wasn't easily hired by anyone.” Amane gave a wry smile and others breathed a small sigh.

Maimu gave commentary like an ordinary reporter, but she did it in a way that made her seem like she learned by combining all the worst trash tabloid reporter’s way of reporting into one.

“Although it is a type that is released, there is probably a part that comes with a little bit when it comes to something like that, ah…”

“I commend her for being able to talk that way but it's also super annoying.”

“Perhaps it's not her ability, but the direction she takes it in that makes people uncomfortable.”

“I don't have time for this, let’s get to opening this.” Kiriko was beginning to get a little frustrated.

“Please wait a moment! We still need to set up.”

“I have no intention of waiting for you.” Kiriko walked towards the container as if to push Maimu out of the way.

“Please, Please!”

“If the amount of footage is a problem, why don't you just do a documentary?” Miki grabbed Maimu by the neck so she wouldn't disturb Kiriko.

“I can't! A documentary is difficult to edit, and then there's narration, and you need a bigger budget ... Is that OK?” Suddenly Maiko received communication from somewhere and her expression gradually changed to a full smile. “Good news everyone we did it. That was a channel telling us it's OK to show as is! We can just broadcast live without setting up ♡ ♡”

“I'm getting angry.”

“It's annoying, but she reminds me of Mihoshi's family.”

“Please advise that children shouldn't watching the broadcast, do you think that you can switch immediately if you see it anything off?”

“It's OK! If there's an accident it's OK, were good with the network!”

“... OK, stay out of the way from now on ... More than that, we’re going to start opening the package now. Make sure you don't get too close because I can't take responsibility no matter what happens.”

“Well, when you keep talking like that it only makes me more curious to see what's inside.”

“... Well then if everything's fine then let’s get started...” Kiriko gave up with a sigh of resignation and walked again toward the center of the foam container.

× × ×

Hey, Lazana!” Clay came down to the downstairs of the jungle pavilion and called her name without confirming she was there.

“Yes, what would you like?!” While waiting to be called by Clay, she was watching the relay of Kiriko's unveiling which had just begun, but she was absorbed in it and had been distracted for some time. She was a bit upset at being called away from it.

“I'm sorry, is there anything I can do for you?” Normally, she would have gotten a call and he wouldn't have to descend to the bottom, but the staff was distracted by the relay and missed the call.

“I don't need you for anything, I was just checking to see if you knew about the broadcast, but clearly you got the memo.”

“Oh, I understand. Thank you for worrying about me, I'm glad you care.”

Clay looked like a puppy dog.

“I didn't come to tell you for your sake, I simply didn't want to have to catch you up on it later.” Clay however ruined the moment with his speech.

× × ×

“Authentication complete. Masaki Kiriko has been confirmed. We will move to the opening sequence.”

Bisheww! Fine cracks in the foam container appeared as it sounded like it was being crushed.

“Now the opening of the foam container has begun, the inside is covered with a snow like material that's melting to gradually revel the inside contents ... ... Oh, what is that!?”

The foam container disappeared and left behind an object with the same hexagonal crystals as Ryo-Ohki and the Kamidake's crystals.

“It's a huge crystal! This looks like the kind used in the ship they call the Kamidake! Miki, give us some commentary, what is that thing?”

“Who said I was willing to give commentary? Well, as you can see it was clearly made by the same person who made the Kamidake.”

In the center on the front, the mark used by Washu was shining in gold. Miki knew it because the Kamidake had the same marking.

“The Armored Cavalry is defiantly inside of that!”

“Maybe.”

“Everyone! Apparently, there is a pattern that confirms its maker on the outside, and it's rumored that the cavalry is inside of it! Kiriko-san, Kiriko-san! Would you mind letting me see the contents right away?”

“Please don't broadcast from here on out, I don't know what's in there. After we confirm its contents, I will think about it.”

“No, that will ruin the flow of the program ... ...”

“I don't care about such things!” Kiriko declared.

An ordinary person would be intimidated and retreat, but Maimu seemed to be unfazed and moved closer to Kiriko.

“Ah ha ha. Those who can stay so dignified while the camera is running are indeed a precious few, would it be possible to ... ... Huh!?”

Kiriko suddenly grabbed her in a headlock. “Look Ms. Maimu, the person who made this, is really a genius, but she's also a creep, and there is a possibility that something that shouldn't be broadcast will happen.”

“Oh... That's good to know ... Well, that could be fun, I think ... ...”

The way Maimu was moving her arms and legs with pain was really funny. But it was certain that Kiriko's grip on her demonstrated her power to break her head clean off. And then,

“Ahahahaha! It must be nice being held in a headlock by Kiriko, you've got a nice view of her breasts!”

“That voice!?”

Something popped out of Washu's marking on the crystal and floated in the air before Kiriko.

“Okay, if you wish to broadcast it then let me grant you permission.”

“Washu-sama ... What are you doing?!” Washu was floating in chibi form, but she was upside down.

“When your only two heads tall, your balance is off ... ...cause your head is heavy, alley-oop.” Chibi Washu flipped herself with her own momentum but seemed to be having trouble balancing.

“Why do you look like that ...?”

“Oh, I was just on a children's program that Ryo-Ohki has recently gotten a part in. The other characters sort of look like this. I tried to imitate them, so I wasn't too big.”

“I see……”

“Kiriko- san, Kiriko- san! Is this by any chance ... ...” Maimu got out of Kiriko's grip and approached chibi Washu.

“Yeah! I'm the scientist who made this thing. Oh, call me Petit Washu when you see me in this form.”

“Do you approve of me filming this?”

“I don't mind.”

“Washu- sama! Are you sure you can do that?”

“Kiriko, if they were able to tell what was up with our technology just by seeing it, they wouldn't have asked us to turn over the Kamidake.”

“That’s true, but ...”

No, no no! The manufacturer's given us the OK, so it's not a problem to relay. So, let’s hurry and show off the Galactic Federation's first Armored Cavalry!”

“It seems they call their large bipedal walking robots Armored Cavalry here, but they’re called a “Sacred Mechalord” over there.”

“Oh, since this is a Godly Knight will it bear a God's name?”

“Uhuhuhu, I'd be so proud if that was the case.”

“Awesome ... ... A new Godly Knight ... This is like a shrine that seals the gods. Let's open it right away.”

“Wait a moment ... the Sacred Mechalord is sleeping. As Maimu said, it's like the shrine of God. So we must do the necessary ritual to enable the God's manifestation, a summoning ritual to make it descend from ancient times!”

“Wait, don't those usually involve the sacrifice of a girl?” Maimu asked, looking at Kiriko.

“Hahaha! Although I don't know if you could call her a girl still, she's more of a wom...”

Suddenly Kiriko rushed to Petit Washu and grabbed her to make her stop her speaking. Her grip strength was stronger than the bite of a Tyrannosaurus.

“Washu!”

“No, no, I meant because you’re married to Seina-dono now. You didn't think I meant something else, did you? ... Well, if what you’re saying is that you've dedicated yourself to your god, then we don't have to sacrifice you... You can just do a song and dance like a good little shrine maiden.”

“Oh, I see! Come on Kiriko, please!”

“What... You want me to dance and sing!?” Kiriko was puzzled. On one hand, she wasn't tone deaf, but on the other hand, she hadn't expected to be singing and dancing on live TV.

“Come and let’s have a song and dance!”

“If it's cool with you. Quick, get the cameras on her!”

“Oh, but first, before you do a dance could you do me a favor? Let me go?”

Washu was still being crushed by Kiriko.

“OK, but only if there's no funny business.”

“Fine.”

Kiriko smiled and released Petit Washu.

“Alright, let’s get ready then. First of all, the shrine maiden will have to transform into her piloting outfit.”

“I understand.”

“Come on, Kiriko, take the wand ... ...”

“Ahahaha.” Half laughing, Kiriko instantly snatched the magical girl stick that Petit Washu took out. “...

.... Washu... really?”

“No no no, don't worry! There's also a pendant version, for the sensibilities of the adult woman.”

“Then why did you give this to me!?” Kiriko threw away the stick and took the pendant from Washu. Suddenly the pendant glowed, Kiriko's clothes began to transform. “Right here? Really!?”

The pattern of Jurai came out across her chest and a costume like a skintight swimming suit emerged that showed off her body lines. Rather than having volume to it like D's outfit it was more like paint.

“Oh wow, so lustrous ... ...!” Maimu shouted. The camera probes and Petit Washu disappeared into dust, of course the pendant was also shattered.

“Geez ..., what did you do that for, Kiriko!?” Petit Washu asked, poofing back in, but the cameras were still destroyed.

Ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah! The cameras! Ah! They were rentals!” Although it was alarming, the TV staff were accustomed to this kind of trouble and soon, new camera probes came in.

“Oh! Good thing I came here with a group of sponsors! Now we’re broadcasting on a mix of different stations, but who cares!”

“Well, luckily they’re used to this kind of situation so were quick to deal with it.”

“We're back on the air and ready. Come on now Kiriko! Please keep changing into the shrine maiden's clothes ... ...OWCH, that hurts, that hurts, that hurts, Owch, owie, owch, That hurts, that hurts, Owch Ow!” Maimu was again in a headlock. “Mercy... Mercy! What was that sound! Did something just break!? Help!”

× × ×

“... ... Is sister Maimu going to be a comedian?” Maito who was watching the relay with Makihi at home tilted his head a bit.

“You need a mix of various fertilizers to grow big trees.” She said to keep her cool in front of Maito, but a blood vessel was throbbing slightly in Makihi's head.

× × ×

“... Well, sorry to have threatened you and all that, but it it's not every day thing goes your way so unexpectedly. But just to be sure, we'll be able to analyze this things rank just from an image scan.” In the manager room the Next of Crown had given up on intimidating Ekushito. He sent the other guys to wait in a limo.

“Preparations seems to be OK.”

While looking at the monitor, Ekushito asked for an indication that the communication was over.

“Huh! .... Well thank you, but I'll never forget what you did.”

“If I can put on a good enough event for you, could you see to it that we’re forgiven?”

“I hope that it's good enough to satisfy me ... ...”

× × ×

“Oh Kiriko, calm down, calm down, it was just a prank, there's no need to be mad, right?” Petit Washu was desperate to calm Kiriko down.

“Can you give me one reason why not?”

“I figure you already know this, but that Sacred Mechalord was originally built for Kenshi.”

“Yes, Rea - san refused.”

“As a result, the problem is that it's made to specification. Earthlings summoned to that world have brought with them a culture of strange things, so well, added various requirements ...”

“What kind of weird things did you do?”

“Well, Ryo-Ohki ... was also worried about Kenshi-chan, so we included a variety of ideas and incorporated a lot of stuff behind the scenes you wouldn't understand. Ha ha ha ... . So, we made it to specifications and then we overloaded it with so many features.”

“I mean what did you do that's in bad taste?” For Kiriko that was the biggest problem.

“I guess it's surprising, but that's the formal piloting suit...”

“... ... No way! ... ... Do I really have to wear such a skintight suit?”

“Well yeah, that's just common sense.”

“Was Kenshi going to have to wear a suit like that?”

“… … Eh?” It was rare for Washu to hesitate. At that moment, Kiriko was likely to go off on Petit Washu.

“I'll ask you again ... Were you really going to make Kenshi-chan wear this suit?”

“... ... Well, there's no problem with just wearing ordinary clothes in there...” At that moment, Petit Washu poofed.

– – sileeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeence

“... Well then, let's perform the summoning ceremony for the Sacred Mechalord ♡” Petit Washu re-manifested and smiled despite exploding just moments earlier. Maimu also had on a smile. Amane and the other girls were watching from afar, Kiriko alone was dissatisfied.

“Well, there were various things to get out of the way up till now, but at last it seems that the Galactic Federation's first Armored Cavalry, which over there is called a Sacred Mechalord, is ready to finally emerge. Let's honor it with a sacred dance first!”

“Now Maimu, let’s do the dance, follow after me, music, start!” And petit Washu broke out into a bon dance while the tanko bushi song played.

*** * * Translators’ note: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_nghnkp4Og * * ***

“... ....”

At that moment, Kiriko did her best to suppress her murderous intent. Otherwise, she would have exploded at Maimu.

“... ... Is this the usual song?” Miki didn't know anything about it, she only got the impression that it was a strange song. It certainly seemed formal.

“I don't know, but isn't it fun?”

“It is quite a cheerful and good feeling, ... But hey, check out Maimu's dance, she sure has some skill.”

“No, not just skill ... she's quite amazing, isn't she?” She was able to dance completely in unison with Washu despite never seeing the choreography before and her movements were flowing and natural.

The air around her became sacred and suitable for a dance to a god.

“.....” Kiriko, who knew exactly how the dance was supposed to be performed, was also amazed by Maimu's instant mastery of it.

“Did you say you had no talent?”

“It's best to ask one’s parents about such things... Mother I know you're peeping from somewhere ... ... aren't you?”

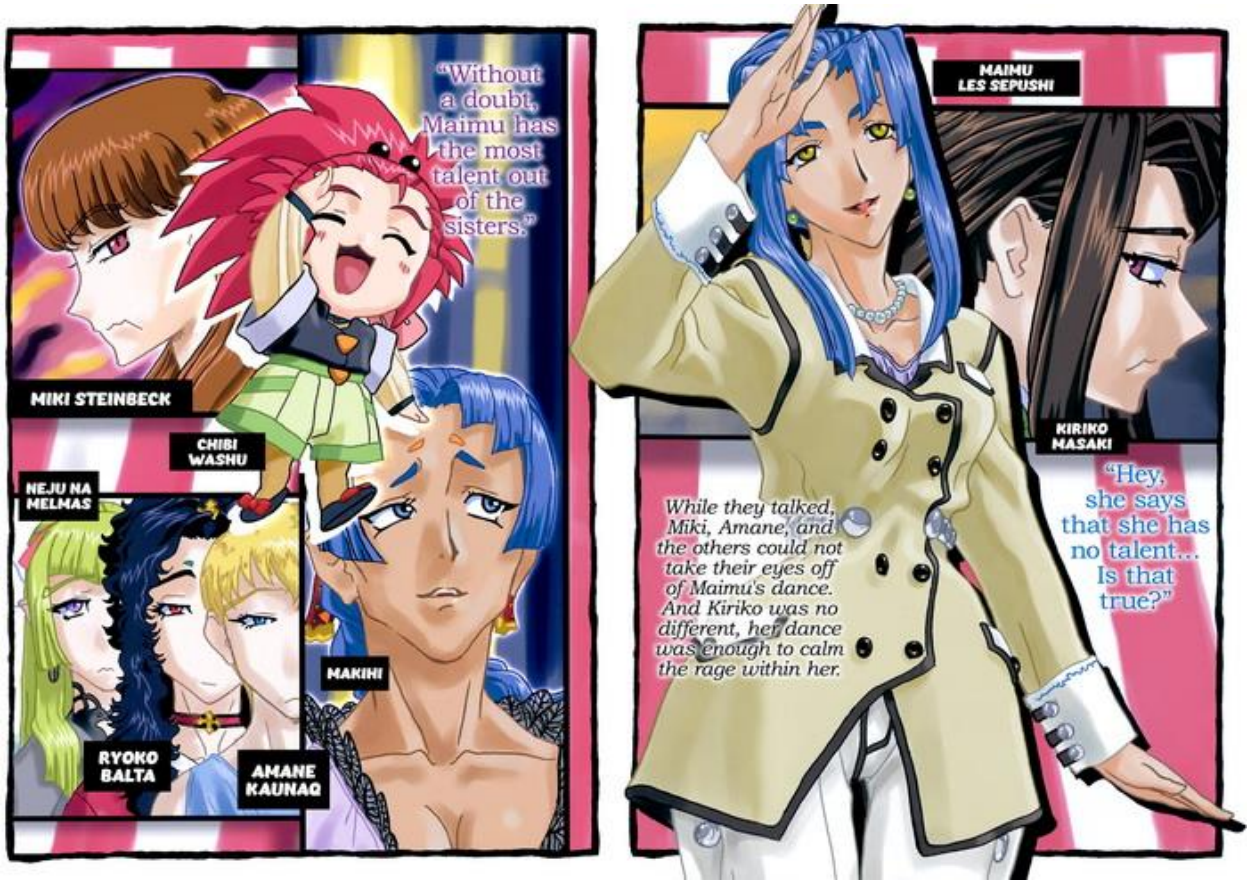
Peeping is rude. I'm just interested in this duel. So, I was watching this broadcast.” Makihi sent a message with exquisite timing.

“Hey, she said she wasn't talented, what gives?” While talking, Miki and Amane's eyes were getting carried away by Maimu's dance and so was Kiriko. Her dance was a calming the anger of the god of destruction.

“It's just as you can see. There's no doubt that Maimu has talent that has surpassed her sisters. She has the grace and elegance of a Mai level dancer. They only have to see a dance once to remember the choreography perfectly, even if they've never seen it before. Sometimes they can even predict the choreography that is to come and begin leading the choreographer, the spirit of despair turns into the sparkle of talent with her. She might even exceed me and become the best of the dance princesses if she keeps going like this.”

“... ... Yes, but it's a useless skill outside of dancing now, isn't it?”

“A person who excels at something is sacrificing something. Perhaps that is the limit of being a human being and not a God. That girl can see her own flaws but not her own talents.”


"Without a doubt, Maimu has the most talent out of the sisters."
MIKI STEINBECK
CHIBI WASHU
NEJU NA MELMAS
RYOKO BALTA
AMANE KAUNAQ
MAKIHI
MAIMU LES SEPUSHI
KIRIKO MASAKI
While they talked, Miki, Amane, and the others could not take their eyes off of Maimu's dance. And Kiriko was no different, her dance was enough to calm the rage within her.
"Hey, she says that she has no talent... Is that true?"

”But she wants to be a reporter, right? I know I’d be mad if I had no other skill besides dancing.”

“Well, that's partially due to that girl's biased probability ... That's why I think Seina will produce a wonderful dancer, maybe I should have tried to hook them up instead... Maya is a talented girl, but if she had done the courtship dance for Seina... she'd be pregnant by now.” Makihi clenched her fists in a regrettable way.

“Never bring that woman close to Seina!”

“We only want children. We don't care about the status of the children.”

“What do you mean the status of children!?”

“Did Seina and you all forget about your positions?”

“... ... Oh, right ... that is troublesome.”

Seina was a tremendous asset, and there was no doubt his status would rapidly increase in the future. Even though Seina refused, he could still establish an entirely new branch of the royal family in Jurai, their children would be welcomed as royalty. Amane represented the Kaunaq, Ryoko the Balta Kingdom. The position of Seina would get steadily greater as the number of his wives also increased, and as their children increased, the number of people involved in their affairs would increase. There was no doubt that various problems would also arise.

“That's too much to talk about now ... oh...”

Miki, who was distracted by Makihi's story and Maimu's dance, wasn't aware of the change in the crystal container.

“Oh!” Ms. Makihi said as she too looked at the crystal container. It looked like a flower bud swelling.

“A little more! The seal with break soon!”

The classic songs and dances continued, such as the “Tokyo Ondo”, “Hanagasa Ondo”, and “Bei Haikai”. Maimu was already in a trance state, immersed in the world of dance.

(I feel something wicked in the music selection ... but I can't afford to complain about it.)

Of course, Bon Odori was a ceremony to calm the spirit, but there were some Christmas and Halloween songs thrown in there. But Maimu's dance changed the image, and it was suitable for reaffirming them as part of a sacred ceremony.

“Okay! That's enough! Now it will open!”

The crystal container had expanded greatly so far, and colorful lights were flying through the crystal.

— Wow Wow Wowon .....

And a sound like a groaning voice came from the inside.

“Come on, the God's coming!”

Pin! Bikiniki! The sacred glass crystal like ice and the crystal petals spread widely and opened up.

“.....”

And when the petals were completely opened, everyone became silent. It was as if they were hesitating to hear someone who was about to give a speech.

× × ×

“Mother, it's an egg!” Maito said gladly. Everyone was hesitant to say it, but they were thinking it.

“... ... Yes, an egg.” And Makihi honestly admired her dance as her mother.

“Great, what's inside ... ... what's being born?”

“Surely something ridiculous.”

× × ×

“It looks like a huge egg to me. I wonder if over there there's a different meaning and functions to that shape.”

The Next of Crown also expressed his honest impressions. However, not with the same level of mental age as Maito, but as a grown up on the same level.

“I didn't even know they had such a thing over there, well, let's just keep on watching for now.”

× × ×

“.....” Miki looked up at with a glare as she wrinkled her brows. “... ... An egg?” Of course she was the first one to break the silence.

“An egg.”

“Yeah. It's an egg.”

“I can't see it as anything other than that.”

When Miki broke the silence, the rest of Amane's group also stated their impression of it.

“What a twist! What appeared from the crystal petals is a huge egg! ... At least to me it looks like an egg!” Maimu who snapped out of her trans-state announced as she aimed the camera at Petit Washu.

“Pupu Pup, Pooh! Pooh-chan! What is that big egg? Is it something unexpected that's going to fight or is it a completed armored cavalry?”

“Well, it seems interesting to fight with whatever it is.”

“Are you sure it's not going to have tentacles growing from there?”

“Yeah, that would be strange ... ... you're joking right?”

“That's right. ... ...”

“So, Ms. Washu ... What is this, what is it? Tell us will tell you, please don't joke around anymore.”

“This guy isn't an egg. It is called a “cocoon”. Over there it's the dormant form the cavalry takes before it starts. It's completed and you can access the main body. You just have to touch it and register as its master ... Of course, there's no funny tricks, so why don't you put your hands on it now. Kiriko.”

“If it's a strange thing, I'll also return it, just like Rea.”

“Kiriko ... ... don't expect such a thing from me. In a way that is my child, she's like Fuku and Ryo-Ohki's sister.”

“... When I hear that I'm even more worried about it.” Being told that it's like Fuku and Ryo-Ohki's sister, meant that if she wasn’t joking, that thing would be powered like a god.

But the time and date of the battle was close, and there would be no battle if there was no armored knight. Kiriko went up to the gigantic egg-shaped object called a cocoon to put her hands on it.

“I guess it can't be helped if it is, now, can it?” With a big sigh, Kiriko turned to the Cocoon.

“Now the pilot, Kiriko Masaki, slowly walks up to this new Godly Knight, no- Sacred Mechalord, past the shell of the crystal container that has been unsealed to touch the cocoon like base, like the throne of God in the middle and we watch as she climbs the stairs step by step.”

While everyone was watching, Kiriko climbed to the summit and looked up at the Cocoon again. It looked milky at close glance like a pearl. She reached out and gently touched it. (It's warm? It's surprisingly elastic) It was cold and moist and felt like jelly or agar. Of course, there was enough hardness to support its weight. She could feel a slight pulse coming from it.

— Master Masaki Kiriko. Personal data confirmed.

“Oh!? ... ... Are you the Cocoon?” It felt like when Mizuki talked to her but had an atmosphere more like Fuku's.

“What!?” Maimu raised a startle voice. The milky color faded away from Kiriko's touch, and the inside became visible.

And there it is ... ...”

Everyone gasped.

× × ×

“Aha! ..... Ahahaha ahahahahahah! This is great! They delivered an unfinished item.” The Next of Crown laughed loudly as soon as the Cocoon became transparent.

There was a huge skeleton in the transparent cocoon.

“You see that, it's only a basic skeleton Ekushito, it will be totally ineffective in tomorrow's fight.”

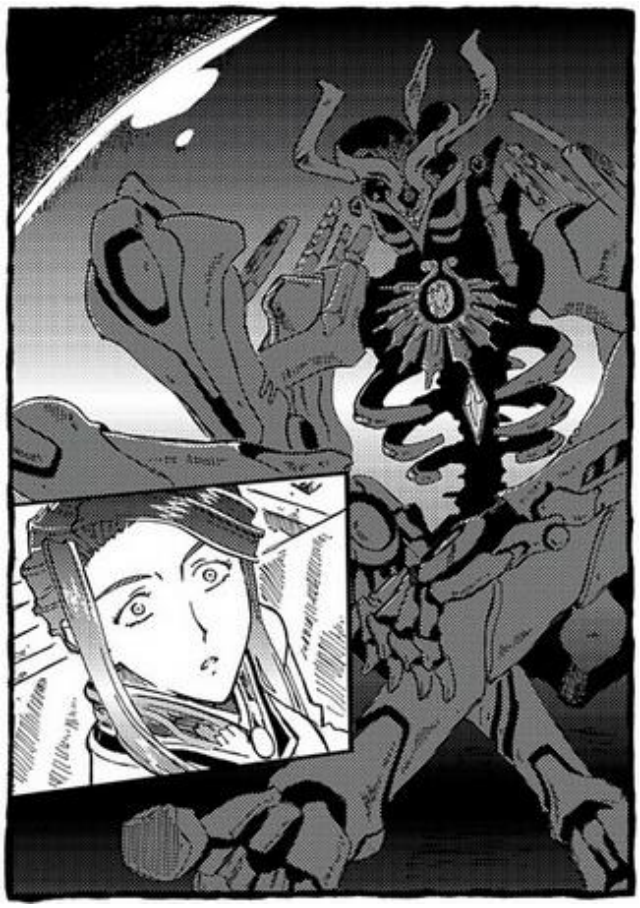
“But Washu-sama was saying, “It's a complete model, ready for combat”.”

“At best that is going to be a Weak Knight class or a good local Knight. Defiantly not a Heavenly Knight.”

“Does it really matter?” Ekushito remained staring at the cocoon, not concerned about the mockery from the Next of Crown.

× × ×

“What should I say? It looks like a fetus ... but ... ...”



The skeleton inside was a dull, dark orange color, which seemed to be sitting in a transparent egg-yolk like substance in the fetal position. There were no eyes in the recessed sockets in the skull, but it still felt like it was watching them with an intimidating presence.

“If this is the one called a Sacred Mechalord, it's exactly like a death god, don't you think?”

“Wait a minute Washu- sama. Washu-sama! What is that! You didn't give it to us incomplete did you!?” Finally, Kiriko snapped back to reality and questioned Petite Washu.

“That's for you to find out! Pooh! I can't tell you that. It may seem like an unfinished item or maybe that skeleton is about to move?”

Maimu focused the camera on Petite Washu.

“Hey, don't look at me with such a scary face... ... fine, that's just the base body. Once the pilot gets inside and stats it, the gel forms to fit the skeleton and it changes depending on your needs.”

“So, it's an adapting thing? Are there different types of armor and weapons?”

“Yes, the armor and weapons are built with IPS gel, so it can fight as is. Just like Kamidake, it has some subspace units, new weapons and armor can made there. I supplied materials and there is a residential unit properly fixed inside, so you can live in it.”

“So, it's like the Kamidake made into a humanoid ...” Kiriko's bad feeling seemed to be right. She was really going to give Tenchi's younger brother, Kenshi, a weapon of mass destruction.

“UHUHUHU! It's one of my best masterpieces made with a concept different from Ryo-Ohki and the Kamidake. Regardless of any battle location, combat condition, or combat form, it can adapt by changing its shape.”

“Well ... ... What, what!? ... It consists of changing weapons and armor ... ... Such an Armored Cavalry has never been seen or heard of before!”

“Over there we call this Holy Knight a Sacred Mechanoid, which is a general-purpose vehicle that anyone can ride, that is, it will change to a shape that is suitable for each pilot's personal preference.”

“So, it's customizable?”

“Yes, but by making it exclusively for an individual, it has enhanced diversity in battle ... ... are you dissatisfied with that?”

Maimu looked up at the Cocoon with a slightly difficult to describe look on her face.

“Yes, I think that it's really wonderful as far as function and technology go, but it's common sense that you can't beat a Renzan model just by being average.”

“Average ... ... well, whether it's common or not will be decided when tomorrow comes.”

“Ohhhh, how confident, let's hope it doesn't spring a leak. But there's one more problem, this Sacred Mechalord, the Armored Cavalry that it will be fighting are somewhat larger than the standard ones mainly used in the battle ... This is kinda small.”

“Oh, but this is around the same size as ZINV.”

Kiriko wasn't bothered. In the first place, fights between ships were common, and size differences were common. The Kamidake and the Big Daruma was like a fight between a bacterium and a person. “So why is ZINV the standard you used?”

“Oh wow!”

Everyone watching the situation became stupefied.

“Pupu Pupu, Pooh-chan Pu-chan! Now it’s inflating and it's growing bigger, big! Like a man in front of his bride after the wedding ... ...” Petit Washu was blown up by Kiriko's punches and quickly regenerated. “... ... Kiriko, this is just an animeroid made out of a force field body, but it has an astral link, the pain is mild, but it feeds back, please stop that!”

“Then quit messing around!”

“Oh my, what is that? Poo-chan! It's growing so fast!”

The skeleton inside gradually enlarged. Furthermore, the protrusions out of the corners and the nails also increased, it now gave off an even more fighting atmosphere. But its skeleton was obviously feminine and graceful.

“Does it have self-healing capability?”

“Did you notice that already Kiriko? That's right! The Sacred Mechalord also has self-healing capabilities, but that's a natural function, though.”

“The power unit it uses is the same the Kamidake uses, but a limiter is attached because its purpose is close range battle.”

(Well, I don't think we ever really use the Kamidake in its entirety either.) Kiriko thought when she heard that. Even if a limiter was attached, it didn't mean that it couldn't be canceled. There

was no way Washu would build a restraint that couldn't be unleashed. (So, she was going to send this to an early civilization world, right? Well, if you used this on the ground, the surface of the whole planet would disappear. No wonder Rea told her no.)

Even in a space battle it would be overkill, but it would be totally insane to use it at full power for a ground battle. Yeah, Kenshi was cute, but too much was too much. But philosophers like Washu didn't consider such things. (Well, I guess I can just use it in battle tomorrow then return it ...)

“Oh, by the way, Kiriko. It's already impossible to return because you've registered as its master, so please take care of my child to the very end.” As if she read Kiriko's mind, Petit Washu had already cut off her escape plans. “This is Fuku's younger sister after all” ♡

× × ×

“Miah?” in the residential area of the Kamidake. Fuku was in the house he stayed in occasionally trying to pick up his smell. Seina was missing, and she was worried he'd be gone a long time. She was used to having Acha around, but today the other cabbit girls were with Fuku chan. However, Miki was absent because she accompanied Maimu to the unveiling, everyone was watching the broadcast.

Fuku was hugged by Acha as they watched Kiriko. The Sacred Mechalord became visible and Fuku jumped out of Acha's arms and went right in front of the monitor.

“Fuku, what's wrong?” Acha was surprised.

“Mia! Mia!”

“Yeah, it seems you're a big sister!”

“Mia!”

“That big bony thing? It's a bit scary.”

“... That's not scary, she's the same as us.” D who was sitting next to Acha, said to calm her down.

“Yay, the number of new sisters I have has increased!”

“Mia!”

× × ×

“I already have Mizuki.”

“Seina is also the master of the Kamidake and ZINV. It's all right, Tsunami has already approved it through Mizuki-chan.”

“Mitsuki-chan is that true?”

《..... They said I should get along well with Yomi-chan》

“Yomi-chan?”

Yes, “Yomotsu Wolf” is its name.

At the moment she heard Mizuki say this, Petit Washu blew up.

“What on earth, why did you name it that!?”

“Because when she said it, it made Seto laugh. She thought it fit perfectly.”

“Gah!”

If Seto had already backed the name, it meant there was no changing it. Jurai no doubt had already registered it as that.

“You two, you two, I heard something like a name, is it possible you're talking about the name of this armored cavalry?” And, as ever, Maimu who couldn't read the room, jumped into the minefield.

“That's right, it's not some anonymous vehicle. So here we are about to announce the name! Kiriko, please tell us the true name of this Armored Cavalry and by all means do it wearing that erotic suit from earlier. Let's go!”

With a big smile Maimu stepped on a landmine with a delight.

“Ah!!!!!!”

Everyone cried out, as the broadcast was quickly switched to an error cut away with an apology ticker.

× × ×

“Did you see that?” The Next of Crown said as he came out of Ekushito's room as soon the broadcast was over. He got into the lounge with his companions and began talking with his colleagues with a joyful expression.

“Oh, you seem a little jealous. The ability of that thing as an armored knight is still only theoretical, but as for the technology there are quite a few things you're going to have to watch out for.”

“Yes, those features would be wonderful to get our hands on, anyone who does is sure to get promoted to first rank.”

Huh. So does that mean you’re fine with leaving things as they are for now?”

“Anything that can be done at this time has been done. The priority now for the Racepshi is to help us get ready to broadcast the fight.”

There was an organization different from an embassy which helped support activities that catered to the Renzan royal family and other nobility in Racepshi. Of course, even individuals were accommodated, but the support organization was specifically for doing special illegal activities behind the scenes, and because it wasn't an official organization as such, there was a priority to use it only for certain things. The criteria for use were so severe, there were few people who could even use it easily.

“Ahaha, it's nice to be able to trust them with our troublesome dirty work. Executing certain activities here is pretty tough, so it saves us from wasting our time.”

“Just in case let's give ourselves an advantage, let's give the mechs prototype equipment developed by each armored knight maker to bump up our specs.”

“Wouldn't it also be possible to borrow replicas of the sacred equipment? This is a battle for our honor and reputation. We should even be able to get permission to used Racepshi's long distance transfer gate if we win.

The holy equipment was a collective term for a series of weapons, there were 100 of them. They were used by the original five Godly machines.

The originals were displayed in a museum, they were weapons given to the King and those who were recognized as brave heroes with remarkable achievements, to be wielded on the upper left on the cavalry. And the holy equipment wasn't copied as it was, they were constantly being updated with the best technology they had presently.

“That would be nice, as long as you get Shirohana and her team to back us up, we should have more than enough strength, unless you’re ready to become a subordinate of Jitsuki.”

“Don't torment me with such an idea. I'll never be subordinate to that gang of fools. I'll see what I can do to hurry things up.”

<<..... What's up? What's going on? >>

<<..... Guess..... I've managed to get about halfway...>>

<<Hey! What the hell's going on!? Hey! >>>

However, there was no response no matter how long he waited after that. The Next of Crown was quickly transferred from the lounge car without his attendant. He went through the gate several times and returned to his base.

“What the hell is going on... Eh!?”

The Next of Crown saw what was happening in front of him, and he was taken aback and stood silent.

“What the heck is going on....?”

× × ×

The same incident as what the Next of Crown saw was also happening at the docks of the Maiden Knights.

“Hmm, it sounds fun, this should be good.” Clay said with smile.

“C-Clay! Where are you up to now!?” In the operator's room at the secret base, there was a masked man whom Clay had caught in a trap that made him do the Bon Dance to the Tanko Bushi song.”

“Uhuhuhu, what a nostalgic sight. I haven't seen such a sight in quite a long time, uhuhuhu.”

“You bastard don't laugh! Do something!” His anger was amazing, but there was no force at all coming from his figure as he danced to the relaxed song.

“You're right, I shouldn't laugh! Thanks for reminding me! Once that thing starts, the cancellation process is a pain. Like I said earlier, you'll have to wait for the effect to expire. It should be about two hours before you’re let go.”

“What are you saying, do something right now!”

“Uhuhuh, well, if you want out immediately, I can just destroy your body, that should do it.”

“Quit playing!”

“You have no one to blame for this but yourself. Now if you really want me to make your wishes come true, I could set you back another hour entirely by discarding all the new equipment I added. Now that I can do with no problem.”

“Do you know how much that lost hour of work is worth!?”

“Oh no, you see, since that loss will have happened in your department, it's your responsibility because well, it's your responsibility. The advice fee I've charged you so far is cheap, so thank you for the nostalgia. I'll get to it.”

“You, you bastard!”

For Clay, the anger of the man in the mask, felt like a gentle breeze. “Well, it's time to relax my stiff muscles with some exercise.” With that he left the room.

“It may be time to reconsider my relationship with these people soon. Although the boss seems to be somewhat competent, it's dangerous to have such stupidity in your ranks. Washu should have clocked the reality of the organization's situation already, and things are only going to get worse with a virus like that among its rank, but is it really more troublesome than that, I can't say... ...” Clay had hesitated before going through the transfer gate to the VIP jungle world that that he went to earlier.

The problem that bothered him most was how he was going to sleep that night. “It is most troublesome to think of places to sleep other than here. I'm happy to admit that such a place is special. Being surrounded by non-productive tadpoles that can only kill time with cheap fun is more troubling than anything. The most annoying thing is that Lazana sometimes tries to find a reason to get into bed with me.”

Clay still heard the Tankō Bushi song in his head it made him grin. “Uhuhuh ... ... In this case, those stupid staff members are going to be busy for a while. I'll take a nap while I know they're busy.”

A cozy place for Clay wasn't a luxury accommodation. It was the corner of a work room or under a desk. There he could sleep well without being disturbed by anyone. “Ahahaa, as expected, Lazana won't be able to find me here.”

Clay smiled after finding a place to sleep for the first time in a while, but after a couple of hours, he woke up to find Lazana sleeping beside him. He seriously considered breaking ties with the masked men then and there.

Chapter Seven: Behind the Scenes

“Ms. Kiriko, I'm here to escort you.” Marci Diplos said as she stared at a monitor that displayed the operations base. “Let's leave immediately.”

× × ×

After the broadcast was finished, Petit Washu had left and the Mechalord had been resealed and was moved elsewhere.

“Miaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” Seeing Petit Washu's appearance, Fuku did a wild dance. She rushed to her and clung to Petit Washu’s head, but since she was in a chibi body only slightly larger than Fuku, her center of gravity was lower ... ...”

“Fuku. Stop clinging to my head, please.”

Fuku's weight made her turn upside down. But for Fuku that was a trivial thing.

“Miah! Mia! Mia! Mia! Mia! Miaa! Mia!”

“Well then, I guess I have no choice but to deal with this a while.” Fuku refused to move, Petit Washu showed a wry smile.

× × ×

“Fuku, catch.” Petit Washu threw two things like candy into Fuku's mouth.

“Mya ... ...?”

“Swallow properly♡”

“Mia!?? The next moment when Petit Washu was satisfied with the situation, Miki, Kirche and D, raised their voices.

“Why are you three here?”

“... Well, ... we felt someone enter the Kamidake.”

“The Kamidake?”

“Do you mind coming with us?” Miki asked mysteriously as she sent a wink to Kiriko who turned to Petit Washu.

× × ×

“... ... This place... In the Kamidake ...? Did you have it moved here?” The place where they went with Petit Washu was one of the sub spatial plates fixed in the ship. But the huge buildings in front of them and their surroundings were all very strange.

(It looks like the shape of that ship ..... Kagato's Souja that I once saw in an article)

And around the runway and other facilities, it looked like an airport or air force base. The horizon was totally flat, and nothing could be seen in the distance.

Hey! Look at the sky!”

“Oh! Amane pointed to the clouds where the other five plate spaces could be seen behind the clouds. In other words, there were now six plates in total including the place where they were.

“... ... 3 pieces on each side... so it's increased by two?”

“I increased them by two, one of which is where we are now.” Petit Washu said, matter of factly.

“Is that by any chance why you made Fuku eat those things earlier?”

“Yes, they were keys to fix the position coordinates of the sub-space.”

“So to speak, this is where I stored the Sacred Mechalord, this is the secret base of The Yomotsu Wolf. I used to use it as a testing space, and there's also a facility for maintenance here. It can also hold and handle repairs on other mechs.”

In other words, Hakuren who was using the space in Racepshi could have the operation transferred there.

“... ... Oh, is that so? So what's in the other spatial plate?”

“Well, it's sort of a staff recruitment facility, the interior is accelerated in time because the environment is still being prepared, so for now let's just go over the base facilities.”

The lights came on in the building, the armored shutters began to open.

“Okay, it's time Kiriko. Go to the central control room and begin the base operation sequence. The format is the same as the Kamidake, so you can use it as soon as your personal data registration is done.

The first in command is registered to Kiriko and Amane. Ryoko, and Neiju are basically registered as second in command, so use them properly according to circumstances.”

“OK ... So, what are you going to do in the meantime?”

“Oh, well, Fuku still wants to play so I'm going to play with her and Acha-chan.”

“Myan!” Fuku gladly clung to Petit Washu.

× × ×

The operation sequence of the base was completed in less than an hour. After linking the necessary data from the Kamidake, it was easy to grasp the controls of the base facilities. After it was over, they waited for Marci to arrive.

“Welcome everyone!” Kiriko greeted the anti-pirate team with a big smile as they came into the central control center very nervous faces.

“Welcome, are you aware of the situation?”

“Yes ... ... I saw the broadcast.”

Although it wasn't readily observable from her face, Kiriko was obsessed with the inhabitants of the fantasy world that she saw in front of her.

“Anyway, I guess you'll want me to leave the command and operation of this base to you. I think that the operating specifications are different from that of Renza, but I gave you the manual, you can manage it. How long will it take you to get moved over here?” Amane took over the explanation on Kiriko's behalf.

Although it was a virtual manual, it was the same as actually checking the area you wanted to look at and it was stored in memory it was possible to use it immediately. The question was whether you could master it and actually put it into use in a combat ready state.

“Not that it matters much now, but this is way easier to use than the one we have for Renza.”

“Excuse me. If it's about that, I'd like to have permission to use this operating format on our ships as well.” Sajyu said to Souren.

“Because there are problems of patent rights and confidentiality, we have to keep its use limited. G1 will be the only base, G2 will be flagship 'Sakura', otherwise it will be G3.”

“Huh ... I see. Hey, why is everyone dancing...?” Souren had intended to be very careful about watching out for any signs of spy infiltration, but a few of the central control staffers had started dancing around.

“Well, they really liked the dance that was done earlier so there dancing together to practice it.”

“Is it possible to get a copy of that song and the choreography ...?”

“Aahahahaa!” It seemed that the cat faeries had grown fond of the Bon festival dance.

“I'm sorry! They're competent, but they're a bit like mischievous children.”

“Oh, Souren-san, that’s ok. I'm not mad at that. The music and choreography data are in the library so anyone can access it. Like so.” Amane showed Souren how to access the file.

× × ×

*** * * Translators’ note: I have no idea what's going on here and it's pointless, so abridged heavily. Sorry, not sorry. * * ***

Somewhere in Racepshi there was a place that looked like a bar. The kind which one entered from a back alley. However, once inside it was quite busy and large inside. Shows were put on here for people who couldn't afford to go to expensive shows. Most of the material was out of print and public domain, such as rare old movies and plays. So naturally it had quite the following.

“Welcome. I thought you'd come.” In an elevated box seat, a woman wearing a hood came up to a place where several people were drinking and watching a show. At the same time, a well-dressed man came in from the back clerk's passage. He was a store manager, or a floor manager as could be seen from his expensive costume that was different from the other clerks.

“... What a strange production.”

“Oh! It's nice to be able to talk with you in person for a change.”

“You have good tastes, but why did you choose such an old looking play for today. It must have been made back when people still wrote everything by hand ... ... is by any chance one volume of a series?”

“It's something I got from an early level civilization just a few hours ago. I liked it and next thing I knew I was several episodes in. Although it's recorded using a primitive technique, the story is interesting and it is more appealing than anything else I had to put on, so I quickly incorporated it into the lineup.” The man's expression looked like that of a boy who had found treasure.

“Well, I'm glad you like it, but it's not my cup of tea.”

“If you sit and pay attention for a while, you'll be astonished.”

“That sounds like more work than it's worth.”

“It's the story of a duel, are you sure you still object?”

“What!” Their previously icy reaction turned to that of surprise.

“I mean ... I figured if you were going to get the job, you'd need to do a little research, but I guess I was wrong...”

“No way ...”

“Oh, well I guess you'll just have to go collect information by yourself at home. Maybe you should go take some pain relievers for that back of yours.”

The woman returned to her cold-hearted atmosphere, as the man gently twisted his upper body and smiled.

“... How can I refuse that?”

“You can't, it's just not feasible. That would be a waste of money, we can't have that now, can we?”

“Are you in a position to refuse?”

“You know I'm not...”

“……” He opened up a private monitor that cut to the robot fight scene.

“Where did you get this?”

“From Washu Hakubi..... I've heard many rumors of her before, especially from the high-ranking officials of the Federation who fear her. It seems she brought Racepshi a large library of stuff like this, I'm sure you'll have more than enough to report back to your boss.”

... ... Hey! No way, is this...!?” The girl stared at the screen. The hero robot had just beaten the enemy with a deathblow.

*** * * Translators’ note: After this there's just a meeting of the Next of Crowns of the various nations as they check out their mechs and gossip about Kiriko's mechs. Nothing of value to translate there. It's getting skipped. * * ***

Chapter Eight: Duel Without Honor, Preliminaries

At the secret base inside the Kamidake, things were feeling surreal as the girls dealt with the fantasy residents who were busy moving the equipment from the Heavens Amusement part to the new base. Hakuren had been busy directing everyone all night and it was in full operation by the next morning.

“Thanks for the help, Ryoko ... Oh, I mean Erma, I was able to afford to do the data transplant because of your assistance and honestly, I thought of going with only the minimum necessary parts.”

“Your people weren't half bad themselves, so I also enjoyed it. I was particularly surprised by Ms. Sajyu, I understand now what Washu meant when she said she sort of resembled a Royal Tree.”

“You say that, but it's thanks to the system here. It's not surprising, there was no lag so there was no stress on the link. There's no way we can ever go back to using our previous system after that, there's no turning back.”

“Although the ship's progress was slow compared to the Armored Cavalry originals, the difference between them was just too big. Even though the Kamidake was heterogeneous with them, even at the highest level, it has over triple the specs, so Erma, I'm sure you understand why they felt that way.”

“It's the result of a major revision of the system, which was still inefficient, so it was being used in a poorly spliced together state.”

“Everything is the same ... But ... Well, we did a lot of revisions. It's mostly the result of utilizing things far more efficiency.”

“Actually, it’s all possible because when Seina came to the academy, he caused a big malfunction of the central system that brought the whole thing down and eventually we realized that we had a unified system the whole time that Washu-sama built in secret.”

“Really ... ...”

“Well, that's the system we’re using now, I felt the same way about it as you when I first used it.”

“Wow, she hid a centralized system ... And for so long, how and why did she do that?”

“We still don't know. But honestly, I'd rather not ask... Philosophers have weird interests.”

“Yeah, it might be left over from some horrible project.”

“Seina brought a lot of ridiculous occurrences with him, so no one questioned it and we all just got used to it.”

“I guess I can see that ... I guess we shouldn't think too hard about it either.”

“Well, that's right, as far as I can tell, the facilities here are more advanced than anywhere in Renza. Kaguya might be the only one not benefiting from them.”

Sajyu and others turned to look at Kaguya who was collapsed on a sofa nearby.

“Hello Kaguya, are you ok? You look sick.”

“I may look sick but I'm sturdy ... Think of me as a human-shaped dragon.”

“You’re more like an older one then a young one. It's not surprising that Ogres can't keep up with all this heavy lifting ... Or rather, I should say it’s not surprising that Kaguya can't.”

“Dragons? ... There is a legendary monster in the Galactic Federation. It's said some have seen them on unexplored planets, but it's almost like a ghost story.”

“A lot of real things have been confirmed in Renza to exist that most of your people consider legends.”

“What do you think about Kiriko?”

“... ... Excuse me, but I feel an extreme level of intimidation.” Kaguya said. Sajyu and Souren each nodded at the same time.

“Intimidating... That's certainly understandable ... ... Juraian royals are the strongest fighters in the entire Galactic Federation. But she is a nice person unless you are doing something detrimental to Seina.”

“I've heard many scary stories from Hakuren-sama but ... The intimidation of her gaze alone is frightening ... ...” It seemed that Souren was trembling just remembering it.

“I'm sure she has no ill will towards you.”

“Even so ... ... Somehow her gaze drops the barometric pressure of the room.”

“... Sajyu and Souren are right. I'm a fighter, and I can tell you that I am just glad that she isn't my enemy.” Kaguya was half crying. She looked like a cat trembling in a corner, its hair puffed up to intimidate while it cowered in fear.

“So in battle, what do you think will happen Kaguya?”

“It might be difficult for her to adjust to armored Knights fights, but if she can adjust using the Yomotsu Wolf, I can definitely see her winning with ease.”

“Yes, that is the only problem...”

“... ... But not for long, we have to go see the “Battle Ethics Committee” later today.”

“Really?!” Souren and Kaguya looked shocked at what Sajyu said.

“What is the Battle Ethics Committee?”

“The royal family's organization for training the royal family for duals.”

× × ×

Kiriko arrived in one of the special harbors with Souren and Kaguya as her attendants. It was a place where VIP-only ships departed and arrived.

“That would be the ship of the Ethics Committee.” She pointed to one of the largest ships there.

“... Great.”

Kaguya appeared to be slightly off put by being in such a luxurious location. Racepshi had many other bigger and more luxurious ships than the ethics committee's ship but was purposely docked here because it looked the best here. They did that to intimidate people and make the luxuriousness of it stand out.

(What poor taste.)

However, those who came from the Galaxy Academy had seen many such ships, and better. To them it seemed like a shoddy rowboat. The ships gathered at Seina's wedding were far more intimidating. And most of all Jurai held the opinion that if one had true power such decorations were meaningless. Mizuki and Seina's Kamidake were after all far more extraordinary ships.

They came to the dock of the super-luxury ship. Each had its own crew facility, like an independent mansion. The limousine bus on which Kiriko was on headed to the largest residence. After entering the gate, they stopped at the porch of a building that seemed like a luxury hotel in a secluded place, where about 100 escorts and maids dressed in fancy military uniforms greeted them. They weren't there to welcome Kiriko's visit, but merely to intimidate them. Of course, in front of a Juraian, they were practically just background scenery.

“Welcome, are you Ms. Kiriko Masaki?” A noble, highly decorated man wearing medals to show his authority asked, as he stood in front of maids who bowed to him. The medals were bullet proof and likely a substitute for armor.

“Yes, who are you?” Kiriko asked in a low voice with a business attitude, rather than one that was condescending.

“Don't you know me? Aren't you a Galactic Federation ambassador?”

“Should I have asked someone else?”

“Wow ... I'm the Count of the Kasen Kingdom ... hmm!?” At that moment, the nobleman distorted his expression.

“I'm a princess of the Masaki Family, one of the four Royal families of the Juraian Empire. How dare the aristocracy be so rude to me.” For Kiriko, spouting off her position was embarrassing

and unfamiliar to her. But once she became a part of the royal family, protecting the authority that came with it became a necessity.

As Seto would put it, “I don't need to be shy to those who take my position as a joke. Rather than be shy I'll should show them why they shouldn't do that! And I'll do so thoroughly!”

More than that, Funaho, who became Kiriko's mother-in-law, had a history of having been insulted for her origin, and like Kiriko, she was adopted from the Earth, so letting her position be smeared was tantamount to letting the Empress herself be smeared.

He was lightly intimidated likely due to shame. But Kiriko, had been very light on him.

“Hehehehehehe ...”

The smell of something that a noble man couldn't even say drifted out and rushed into the air. The maids were terrified of Kiriko, and the guards were unable to move as if they were petrified.

(How low skilled these people are.) She was amazed even through her anger. (Is this the power of Renza? Is their aristocracy really this useless? Wait, isn't the Ethics Committee a governmental office?) “Kiriko-sama ... Tone it down please.” Souren softly whispered to Kiriko.

“Why should I. Thanks to them I've been put through this hardship in the first place. Why should I make them feel like they have any sort of advantage over me when they don't? I was hoping to get out to mingle for a bit peacefully, but I didn't think they would ever be this foolish.”

“Sorry, Kiriko Masaki. Please calm down, there's no need to be angry.” A butler-style man said from behind her. His behavior was calm and like Kiriko's intimidation his speech had a delicate elegance to. He was probably a butler who was in charge of business affairs.

“I'm not angry. I'm appalled. We don't have any official diplomatic relations, but even so you shouldn't be so rude to a princess of another country. Or is this just the courtesy that all of Renza shows its nobles? If that's the case then I'm just responding with the appropriate response, isn't that right?”

“That's not the case. Despite the role of this organization, we have a philosophy of treating everyone equally. Even if they’re Renzan royalty, of course.”

“That's fine, but I don't believe you. And why was I called here without explanation? And where are we on the ship.”

“I can only say that it is our custom. And you better calm down because this the middle of...”

“The middle of what?” Kiriko was in full intimidation mode.

“... ... Renzan territory ...”

Her mask of pretending to be calm broke. “Huh? When did we enter Renza territory!?”

“Just a moment ago ...”

“Hmm but there was no formal permit for us to do so. Mr. Souren, please confirm.”

“Wait, wait. There's no need for that from here on, we'll bring you ...”

“Relax everything is alright...”

“Hrrrrrrrrrrrrr!” Kiriko exclaimed as she glared at his attempts to calm her down had failed. “Do you think I'm stupid? Do you think I'll just let you take me out of Racepshi's territory? And then you’re actually foolish enough to try to threaten me? And you call this hospitality... Do you think I'm stupid because I'm a Juraian princess, or is it because I'm a woman?”

“.....”

“Did you really think I'd just go along with such a low-quality farce like the one you pulled on Racepshi? I'll have you know that I can take control of a single ship like this by myself.” The moment Kiriko said that, nearly a thousand Guardians materialized all over the place. And many of the Guardians that the committee had used to hide behind were captured and destroyed.

“What! To think you'd do such thing ... How foolish.”

“The moment you took me away from Racepshi this became a kidnapping of a royal family member from another country. I should have annihilated you at that point ... I don't even need these guardians; I could do it on my own if I wanted.”

“Are you sure you want to do that?”

“The fact that my guardians have materialized here means that this exchange is being broadcast.”

“Gah!”

“You bastard, you have a pretty bad reputation, to think that you'd insist that the incident the other day was my fault. As if we didn't have witnesses, and what, then you expect me to take the fall for it? It's a tower built of sand, and you don't even have the power to back it up.”

“You will never be able to work freely in Renza.”

“Are you going to disobey the promise of a duel? Are you invalidating the very basis for the battle itself? Should I take this as a consensus reached by Renza ... Are you ok with making such a decision on their behalf?” Kiriko said with a smile. Not only was the man in front of her trembling but so was Souren.

“No nothing like that, that is just my personal opinion ...”

“Oh, and is that because you really don't have the power to do so? You're not even an authentic Earl of the Kasen Kingdom are you?”

“No way! Why do you say that?”

To Kiriko's remarks, Souren quickly looked at the man's panicked face. But officially speaking he had been active as an Earl for quite some time.

“Have you had your genetics altered since you were born?”

“No ... ... It's just ...”

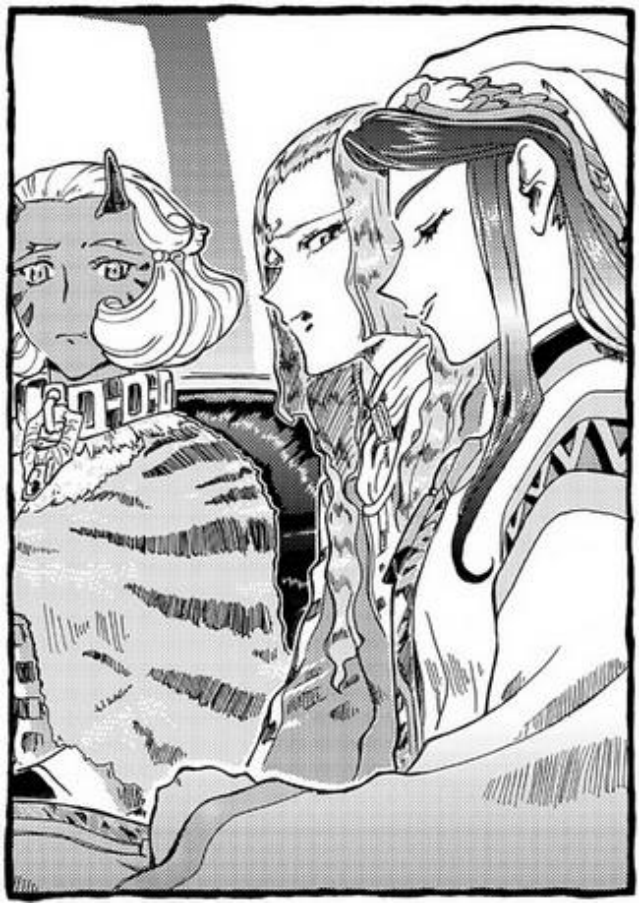
“The committee officer is a hereditary, inherited position, you're not even the person who should have the position.”

“Please stop, ...” His biggest secret was being revealed, he locked up and was only able to stare at Kiriko.

“I only agreed to fight you to humor your country's interests, but that doesn't mean I have to do things according to your expectations. Are you sure you want to change the conditions of the battle here? I'm more than happy to call off the fight and end this a much more personal way. Either way I'm not going to be losing this fight.”

“Kiriko-sama...!?” As soon as Souren approached to stop her, Kiriko raised her hand lightly to hold him back.

“Come on, please by all means, tell me how you want to proceed.”



× × ×

“... ... I can't believe he agreed to your conditions... I suppose that's good right?” After the discussion, Souren finally spoke on the return limousine bus back.

“It's really up to whatever Washu's imagination has created, I have no time to engage with people like that. Let's just get this thing over with.”

“Oh, are you angry?

“Let's just say I understand better now why pirates choose to fight them in one-on-one duals.” Kiriko let out a big sigh relieving the strained atmosphere of the car. She was aware from Erma telling her earlier that the others were intimidated by her and wanted to change their view of her.

“Well, that was pretty embarrassing for him ... ...”

“Kiriko-sama, that was an amazing number of guardians, even if the ship was full of the entire Ethics Committee, you could have overpowered them in a few minutes.”

“Well, really though, I'd never even need to use them like that, I'm more enough on my own.”

“Eh?” A casual reply, Kaguya and Souren seemed taken back by that response.

“I feel like there's more to that then you’re telling us...”

Chapter Nine: Duel without Honor, Farce

“This is the entertainment planet Racepshi. We've hosted many legendary events in our long history, but rarely has one been so legendary! We're proud to present a Godly Knight vs. Godly Knight fight. Isn't that amazing! We’re so lucky to be able to present this moment! One could easily go their entire lives and never see such an event! It's a rarity itself to even be able to gaze at such a rarity that the seven bodies, including the rare escort knight, unknown cavalry, gathered together so many cavalry, let alone to have so many at once. And right after we had the pleasure of showing the Galactic Federation's Kamidake destroy the Daruma guild with a tremendous rage. And who can forget the power shown off when the Maiden Knights and many armored knights, came out in front of us!”

The battle of the next day was hyped up even more than ZINV and HIMIK's battle. The announcers on Racepshi were running off the excitement that came from the previous battle being left unfinished. The audience ate it up.

× × ×

“Yeah, it's about to get really exciting.” Jitsuki and the others gathered in a townhouse. Although it was said to be a townhouse, there were only two levels with ten rooms. It was the base of housing and activities for Komekitsune and her companions.

There was an office there for them to use too but presently they were hesitant to start using it.

“It’s been a big fuss since yesterday, so I quickly ran away, and I see now that I made the right decision.”

“If he were caught up in that, your older brother would have been overwhelmed overnight.”

“In other words, I was used to deep emotion.”

“Isn't it mutual?”

Because Komekitsune and her companions were not going out for information gathering, they did not hold back with jokes. It was almost like a student studying in a friend's room.

“And I got to see an awesome live feed while I was eating this morning. Thanks to the fact that it came out of nowhere, though, I had a hard time not spewing and almost throwing up.”

“It is because he was dismissed in those battle ethics? To be honest, I'm relieved.”

“It's one of the root causes of all the evil that brought the battle into ruin. Well, this has pretty much destroyed their authority.”

“They're blowing off the credit for making me accept the terms of my brother's improvement. But they're clowns when that broadcast is on the air. And it must be pretty painful to have your shadow warriors exposed.”

“I'm sure that's just another trick because Battle Ethics is a hereditary system, but I'm surprised they've were able to hide it until now.”

“The more important question is about the duel. Is four against one really serious?”

In other words, the condition Kiriko received was for a four to one against Kiriko duel.

“It's fun to watch my older brother, but I do not care about this so far ... Oh, of course I have not praised you?”

“Although this victory is 90% abuse and one-minute cheering, for my brother ... no, that one minute is sufficient for the privileged hierarchy.”

It was only natural that one of them would control the blind seat. If you won, you're in the government army.

“It's a good strategy, but not in a duel.”

“What do you think Kiriko is thinking? Is that how confident she is in that Armored Cavalry? Or is it her own piloting skills?”

“If what you said about my sister's improvement is true, then that means it's both. Maybe the flashy use of the Kamidake was just a cover, or a cover for her hand.”

“However, the Kamidake isn't ordinary, either. The one that was hit was a special class that your father also uses. I can't believe it was so easily beaten.”

“The numbers were amazing, too. The technology that can control those things isn’t normal either.”

“I'm more concerned with the fact that she showed you so many of them. I still think she's trying to hide her power.”

“It's only the power of technology that's amazing, and she makes you think she's a normal woman?”

“Yes! That. After that, maybe an assassination seal?”

“Yeah, because I heard that your brother made a flamboyant move on the clansmen who are hiding over here.”

“According to their information, the workmen behind the Racepshi have turned down the request across the board, you know.” Jitsuki said as he poured tea into their teacups. There was no companion or attendant, so they were doing the chores, but for them, this was a kind of fun.

“Could it be that that broadcast got you?”

“Yeah. That's how I see it. I heard that was a warning, too, so...”

“So you're saying that the people behind the scenes have been put under the watchful eye of the Hakubi Washu?”

“That includes the people in my house. We're currently investigating to see if there's any infection out there.”

“I'd better assume there is. You're totally ... ... fucked. Oh, and back to the issue of the ethics guys having a special cavalry. That's the one that's only deployed to the head of the family and the royal family up to the third rank, right? Was it the Central Special Research Institute that leaked it?”

“Someone in the royal family used it as a trade. It's proof that they had a lot of power, but it can also be used as an excuse to attack. I'm sure there are a lot of carrion scavengers out there right now, trying to peel away the vested interests of ethics.”

“Ugh, ..., I don't want to go near the center for a while.”

“Whoa, it's time to introduce my brother's armored cavalry ... ... What's that ... ... thing?”

The ten cavalrymen were stunned when they saw their brothers' armored cavalry appear on the scene.

× × ×

“Now on the side of the Renza, the four Heavenly Knight Class have appeared! Every one of them is heavily armed!” The Armored Cavalry that emerged from each ship with flashy effects was brought to life by the huge, linked images of space.

“First up is Lord Tsugisa's 'Cavalry Thunder'! This is the most orthodox way to use a sword. In addition, this time he will be using a replica of the relic equipment, the ‘Sun Sword’ ... ..., an extremely expensive treasure sword that uses the mysterious metal orichalcum as part of its body.”

He wore Western-style armor with a design similar to that of a lion, and his sword, which was longer and slightly wider than his rider's height, had a design of the sun on it.

“Next to him is Lord Tsugisa’s ‘Rough Seas’! A large, armored cavalryman who believes in power! And here's another axe shaped relic, the Great Earthquake.”

Rough Seas was the largest of the four armored cavalry, larger than the ZINV by a head and shaped like a long-legged gorilla with large arms. The armor design of all four horsemen seemed to be based on the motif of a lion, and they had a unified design. Of course, the detailed decorations and colors were completely different, but in a way, the four armors together gave the impression of a warship. Kiriko burst into laughter when she saw them.

“The ‘Dark Black Butterfly’ ridden by Lord Sanma uses its speed to distract opponents. It is said that he has never received a scratch on his cavalry. Of course, the weapon he uses is his sacred

equipment, the ‘Morita’. There are many mysteries surrounding this relic equipment, and no one knows the full story. Will the veil be revealed today?”

The ‘Dark Black Butterfly’ was slender because there was no additional armor, and it was wearing one side cloak. The cloak was sacred equipment. Although it was called cloak, it was really a field of energy like opaque aurora rather than cloth. It was generated from the shoulder disk.

“Last is the Lord of the Next Kasen’s “Fire Star Rain”, which specializes in long-range shooting, and its tremendous shooting is like a huge meteor shower, a rain of death that destroys everything! Then there's the ‘Dragon Roar’ of the Holy Relic, a vicious cannon that is said to shatter planets with a single blow.”

The main body of the Fire Star Rain was the smallest of the four and was in the shape of a normal human. However, when combined with the super-large weapon unit behind it, it becomes a highly activated moving fortress. It also had four long cannons that were twenty times the size of the Tenki's, the ‘Dragon Roar’.

× × ×

“Wow, ... that's a lot of equipment to fight a big fleet with. It's like you've worn as much as you can, and that's just your first battle.”

“Just the fact that you're in there and in the public eye, what kind of punishment is that?”

“With a double enemy, well, I don't know, but you're dealing with a single pilot.”

“And yet you can make that smug face, so you might be a bigger deal than you think. Oh, now it’s just that princess on the side of the Galactic Federation, though.”

And all three of them whistled a sigh at the appearance of Kiriko.

“This is ... ... also ... ...”

All three of them seemed to be taken aback by the sight.

× × ×

“Well, well, well! The Jurai Empire, where this person is from, is one of the largest countries in the Galactic League, and is rumored to be a country of tremendous military prowess. Moreover, the princess of the Masaki family, one of the four imperial families that produced the current Jurai Emperor, has appeared.”

At the moment when Kiriko appeared from the Sakura, the moderator was instantly struck by the atmosphere and silenced. Although it was the result of the costumes, staging and directing, her atmosphere had enough charm to attract the eyes of the others. Originally Galaxy Academy was a place where individuals gathered from the galaxy, and the fact that there is a fan club for her is itself a proof of it.

“..... and excuse me! But what a woman with presence! She is as charismatic as the dancers of Racepshi.

“She is the master of the mysterious ship, the Kamidake, which went on a rampage to assist the missing Godly Knight ZINV when it was attacked by the Heavenly Knight HIMK, and she is a hero who has achieved many distinguished deeds in the Galactic Federation. She is also the wife of Seina Yamada. At the meeting in Racepshi, she smashed a desk made of steel, said to be worth billions, with one hand. She also defeated the infamous Battle Ethics Committee. I'm sure many of you were relieved to hear that. I am one of them! A-ha-ha, Suck it up!”

× × ×

“No, no, no. You’re a woman with a really good atmosphere. It’s so interesting!”

“Yeah. Amazing. I especially like the way you stand ....., though I guess that dainty look isn't all there is to it, since the Witch Queen said she was afraid of you.”

“Ah ha ha, I guess that’s true. That princess stands out at as his opponent, my brother's rogue’s stand out, and the announcer did not hide his grudge against the ethics committee.” Jitsuki and his friends laughed like children. If Komekitsune were there, she would have spanked him, but that scary lady was out for the day. That's why the other two were slumped together.

“The royalty of Renza and the Ethics Committee are seen as the same kind of people. And here comes the other main topic of conversation. The more I look at him, the more I can't help but think he's an oddity.”

× × ×

“Well, Sacred Mechalord ‘Yomotsu Wolf’, that was unveiled on the eve of the eve of the festival, the form called that cocoon is exactly what emerged before. What kind of transformation will it show us? … … And what a surprise, Princess Kiriko has taken off her luxurious Jurai style outfit!”

Kiriko took off her formal wear and Kaguya, who was waiting behind her assisted her. They had made something easy to put on and take off for the occasion, like taking off a coat. And although the bottom is not a suit like last night's body paint, it fit like a GP reinforced undergarment, like the one she wore when she beat up Daedalus and Tarrant. However, it was still classy with a Juraian style design on it.

“Unfortunately, it is not the same as the erotic thing we saw last night, but it is still very beautiful. By the way, the film crew attempted to restore the footage from last night, but the camera probe was completely crushed and the data that was being transmitted was erased by that dance trap virus, so all that remains is in my memory ...” The presenter clenched his fists in a truly regretful manner, but then quickly returned to his story, probably with instructions from off-screen.

“... ... Well, I will continue the live broadcast. However, this costume is also a bit bold. The figure is tight, but the proportions are well defined. Oh, Princess Kiriko, she is running toward the

cocoon. She will probably board the Sacred Mechalord, but what kind of boarding sequence will we see?”

At soon as Kiriko touched the cocoon, a complex geometric pattern appeared on the surface of Cocoon. Gel clung to her wrists and pulled her body inside.

× × ×

“Wha! What the hell was that?”

After Kiriko was pulled into the cocoon, she was in a large bubble that completely covered her body with her hands restrained by the gel. As soon as the bubble entered the rib cage of the skeleton, the internal structure began to build around the bubble, or rather, the gel began to change.

“Komekitsune, Komekitsune! Are you able to monitor it properly over there?”

“Yes. There is no viral reaction in the example, so I think we should be fine as long as we don't do a spy scan.”

The place where the Ten Horsemen were located was only an office and residence, so it was not suitable for information gathering. That is why Komekitsune and her team were in the control center, which controlled Racepshi’s relays.

“Komekitsune, if something strange is about to happen, you can stop monitoring.”

“Ko, Komekitsune-san. Don't take it too hard.” The worried look on Misui's face was like that of a young husband worried about his first wife in the maternity room.

“Yes. I'll be careful.”

“It's okay. I'm just going to start dancing. There's no other physical harm.”

They don't stop for two hours!

“It's a pretty fun dance when you look at it closely. It's quite precious to see Komekitsune dancing like that, isn't it?

“All the guys who danced had muscle aches so bad they couldn't get up.”

“Those guys don't get enough exercise. I'm convinced that the hackers are shut-ins, because the person who set it up also sent me a message saying, “You should exercise once in a while. Komekitsune, on the other hand, works out a lot. You know that very well, don't you, Misui?”

“Well, that's ....., and that's not the same thing as this!” Misui recalled various parts of his firm training, but quickly came back to himself.

“Oh, that didn't catch it, did it?”

“Hey!”

“Haha, sorry. By the way, Komekitsune, how does it look?”

“The cockpit must be formed around the pilot. As Washu Hakubi explained last night, I think it is tailored to the personal needs of the pilot.”

“And even then, I hear that they used prosthetic bio-parts in the prototype, but only for a small part of the control system and such, you know? So, what is that Sacred Mechalord thing?”

“This is a deviation from the norm for an armored cavalry. But the question is, how good a fighter is it?”

“That's right ... ... but ... ...”

Despite their skepticism, all of them had seen top-class Heavenly Knights up close and personal from an early age, and they all sensed something beyond them from that oddly shaped armored horse.

× × ×

“What exactly are we witnessing? The birth of life? No, that is different from such an easy thing.”

As soon as a cockpit-like object was formed with Kiriko as the nucleus, an eyeball-like object was suddenly created in the eye socket of the skull, and the skeleton reached out as if to break through the cocoon. But the gel went on to clothe its arms, forming a transparent white body. The structure inside, however, was completely obscured.

”Vo-woo-woo-woo-woo!” The skeleton stood up, making a noise that sounded like a woman's moan as it was covered in gel. As the body stretched out, the color of the gel changed to white, as if the gel was transforming, and the holy machine began to wriggle its body as if it was dancing.

“How terrible and beautiful ... ... I can't even begin to describe it.”

“Maybe we are witnessing a new historical moment!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

With a shrill voice, the Sacred Mechalord began to wear armor. Like ZINV, it was formed by a force field plant, but it was much faster than that. The way it appeared and attached itself in an instant, as if summoned from somewhere, was breathtaking.

If Japanese armor is pure white it looks like a bridal gown. Is it hair or a veil? It was long enough to reach the ground and it had a complex rainbow color like the surface of water. The armor made it almost impossible to see, but its hands were thin and slender, and they were jet black, reflecting no light. The face was also jet-black, with only the long, slit eyes shining brightly.

“Haaaaaaaaaaa ... ...” Slowly, slowly, the great breath or air subsided, and the Sacred Mechalord ‘Yomotsu Wolf’ was revealed.

“Yamata no Orochi, One Spear.” That was the voice of Kiriko. Darkness grew from the palm of the Wolf, which took the form of a spear.

With one hand gripping the spear she spun it into an upright position and lightly thrust it into the scorching runway. It was the simplest form of spear; its length was two and a half times that of the Yomotsu Wolf.

“Now, at last, the first armored cavalry of the Galactic Federation, created by the legendary philosopher Hakubi Washu! The transformation process and its appearance are truly unique and different! Now let's see what it can do!”

When her opponents were ready, they left the mothership and moved to an asteroid prepared by Racepshi. Once the mothership left the combat zone, the duel would begin.

“Kiriko- sama, if you deem it too dangerous, send a signal of surrender at your discretion. Please note that is a one-time offer.”

“I understand.”

Seeing the anxious look on Souren's face made Kiriko happy in many ways. No matter how many times they talked, she ... ... enjoyed his presence. Her anxiety towards Seina and anger towards the other party were allayed only at this time.

“Good luck.”

“Thank you.”

“Masaki Kiriko. You can't expect to get away with all the insults you've heaped on Renzan royalty.”

They were probably trying to shake her up mentally. She could hear the vibrating wave transmission of the next cavalry. (I guess anything is possible. Well, even in a duel, which is considered sacred, this is how it is in battle.) If you won, the rest is whatever you wanted it to be. Winning is what determined right and wrong.

“Huh. As for those ethical carrion scavengers, let's give them a little credit. I'll show them a little mercy for their minor merits. You will immediately dismount from your fancy armored cavalry, surrender to us, apologize to us, give us everything, and serve us. Then your body will be at ease. We'll give you plenty of luxury.”

(That's what these people say to women all over the world. Anyway ... ...)

“Your husband's whereabouts would be a trivial matter with our help. But that man does not deserve a Godly Knight. The ship should be ours as well. If you can become a hero with unworthy power, you can rule the galaxy with our help. And you'll be better off for it.”

She could hear the laughter coming from all around. The tone of voice was soft, but the content was truly vulgar. They are relieved to outnumber and outgun her and buoyed by the certainty of victory. She knew from the data she’d gotten from the Battle Ethics Committee how many maneuvers they'd pulled off with the committee.

Of course, they didn't start out that way, but their relationship had grown rapidly over the past few years. And the pure feelings they may have had in the beginning had quickly rotted away, revealing the abomination that she saw before her.

“Shut up, let's get started.”

“Just think of her as a woman and take care of her! You won't regret it!”

Kiriko's simple rejection of his proposal made the Next of Crown furious, and a few seconds later, he gave the signal for the start of the duel.

Chapter Ten: The Couch Potato Appreciation Party

On Jurai's main planet, Seto's Mikagami floated around 30 meters above the sea floor on the ocean, about 10,000 kilometers away from the main continent.

Today, the sea water was being drawn into the water mirror part from which the name came. Two marine reptiles like sea serpents, about 50 meters in length, were drifting in a form like a tuna roll. They were Seto's pets that she normally kept in Mikagami; they were an ancient species designated as an endangered species that once inhabited the seas of Jurai. She kept them in protective custody in the Mikagami, but she occasionally let them play in the sea.

“Seems like Seina, as usual, but it is surprising that the second generation who fought ZINV survived.” Azusa, Funaho, and Misaki who gathered in Mikagami seemed quite surprised when they heard Seto's report.

“From Kuisu's report, they think that it was a result of the dimension integration. It appeared in front of ZINV and soon after ... they started to battle ... ... And there were six third generation cavalry with it. The Kamidake destroyed some of them but some of the wreckage collected from that is now missing.”

“But first off, what about the matter of Seina's life or death situation?”

“I'm sure he's all right, Seina is probably just busy.”

“Hey ... ... Misaki.”

“I agree with you, I'm sure we'll pick up something from him soon.” Both Misaki and Funaho came together and were convinced of Seina's survival, they had no anxiety on the issue.

“He is a Masaki now after all. It's just like one of us to go into battle and then disappear for a bit.”

“It's becoming a bit of a tradition, isn't it?”

“Well, the video cuts out at this point, but Ms. Makihi sent us battle images, shall we look at them now?” Seto launched a slide show video.

“Wait, before we get started!” She began putting candy on the table. Misaki and Funaho were entertained and enjoying it. It felt like they were watching a TV program with family even though it was an important meeting, this was becoming the norm for the girls. Azusa only breathed a small sigh.

“OK, let's get started.”

It was a digest of battle between the Godly Knights that began with a strange opening sequence. Then came the encounter between Kiriko and Renza. It continued to a Sacred Mechalord relay they showed at their last meeting. And then to the trial with Kiriko and the Battle Ethics Committee that happened in the morning. It finally continued to the actual battle.

× × ×

“Okay! Go to automatic battle mode as planned!”

“Great Rainstorm!” A rain of flames began to fall. Three Armored Cavalry surrounded the Yomotsu Wolf.

“The aftermath of the energy is overwhelming. I can't sense what's going on with the enemy.”

The sensor of one of the cavalry linked with the rest of the cavalry and the whole battlefield was made visible from the other cavalry, but the power of the attack was too strong, the sensors had difficulty dealing with seeing past the energy released.

“There's no moving body reaction ... Haha! I knew it was overkill, but I wanted to end it in one shot.”

“Truly we have holy equipment. I was planning on showing restraint. “

“Such a waste, I thought she was a nice girl.”

“It’s not confirmed over yet. Don't get distracted.”

“The energy value has dropped ... ... sensors have recovered... What!? No? Where did it go?”

“It's that weird biological-looking horseman. I think it was vaporized.”

“Even so, some kind of reaction still remains ... ... on your guard! It's close!”

The cavalry reacted, as Kiriko moved into action.

“Guaaaaaaaaaah!” However, the next moment, like they were hit by a lightning bolt, all three of their cavalry had their limbs pierced through.

“Aaaah! The Sun Sword is ... ... AAAAAAAAAH!?” He was too distracted by being pierced to notice right away that his own weapon, the Sun Sword, had been taken from him. In the next moment the Yomotsu Wolf took the sword and cut off the head of the cavalry that wielded it and pulled it off the cavalry's body. They had a chance to escape if they had moved but instead, they were distracted by their missing sword.

“His head! You, cut off his head! You bastard!”

A tremendous metal rupturing noise echoed into the nearby pilot’s cockpit, it sounded like a construction site. All of his monitors filled with static and cut out one after another. Only a few emergency monitors remained to convey the danger of the situation.

“Stop it! Stop! Please stop! Not my head ... ... “

Kiriko had asked Kaguya what the most humiliating situation for the pilot of an Armored Cavalry unit was, and that was to take his head as a trophy and steal their main weapon.

The Next of Crown was begging in tears, but communication functions had become useless already. His request never made it to Kiriko. Even if it had, she wouldn't have stopped. Kiriko's anger wasn't going to be sated so easily.

“Are you using his mech as a shield? Coward!”

“I'm going around!” The Dark Black Butterfly turned around. However, it didn't find the enemy it was looking for. There were only the remnants of the Lightning Thunder, the cavalry that Kiriko had just taken out.

“AAAAaaaah!”

“The enemy is behind us!? How did we not notice it!?”

“Whatever, the Dark Black Butterfly is faster than it!”

“Hey!” The Dark Black Butterfly swung its giant ax behind itself. The thruster it used to do this caused a big earthquake. But it wasn’t firmly fixed in place. There was a force field generating device in the legs of the cavalry, but both of the knee joints were destroyed, and it wasn't usable.

“Wait... when did that happen ... ... when did I get a leg injury!? How did I not notice that!?” His legs couldn't endure the shock of the earthquake he had just cause and he collapsed. “Stop! Stop! Stop nooooo!”

“Gayaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

The Yomotsu Wolf stole the Dark Black Butterfly's equipment, ripped off its arms and head and sent them flying.

“Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Forgive me! I give up you win!” The last cavalry turned around and began running away.

“Get me out of here! Help!” It turned around and began to fire all of its weapon at once at Kiriko.

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!” A full burst of the Fire Rainstorm attack hit The Yomotsu Wolf. “I won! I won! I won! I won! I won! I'm the winner!”

The terrible energy dissipated in a short time, and the Yomotsu Wolf was gone again. However, they saw the wreckage of the other cavalry and assumed it to be Kiriko's.

“Hahahah... Look at this. This is what happens if you go against me. Who of you dares to go against me now? This is how you'll end up. Heh? ... Wait ... how long have you been there!? Why didn't I notice?!”

The Yomotsu Wolf was standing in front of the Fire Star Rain, as if nothing had happened.

“Ah ..... Oh god, ahhhhhhhhhhhhh...”

The Fire Star Rain couldn't escape, the Yomotsu Wolf ran up to it and stole its weapons and tore off its head.

“Now, do you see this!? What do you think! I have avenged all the lords’ enemies! Who wants to face humiliation! I want their names! Whoever has a reason to fight me, come at me!” Kiriko boldly proclaimed.

A wave of back up came in to avenge the Next of Crown but they were nothing but cannon fodder to Kiriko. They fell one after another in a short time and were quickly demolished into rubble.

“What ... what is that? Have you ever imagined such a scene happening in front of you? Let's tally up the number of the destroyed, 12 Heavenly Knight class, and 16 Aquius Knight class. Total number of kills: 28. This is definitely a record number of victories in one day ... ... No, more than that, it's a sufficient war record to be able to receive a ranking. Besides ... ... if it's certified as an official continuously undefeated record, it'll be a record that will put her at the top of the top ten strongest pilots of all time... What is this?! I'll tell you what it is! This is the birth of a new legend!”

× × ×

“A new legend ....” After watching the presentation, Azusa breathed a big sigh. “What a sad thing to hear. They went in unfamiliar with her tactics and unfamiliar with their own weapons. How dare they fight in such a state. Are they stupid? Why would a royal family be proud to raise someone who would do such a thing?”

“They thought they had an automatic win. Maybe if this was a normal opponent, but not when Kiriko is your opponent.”

“Their armaments and tactics. It is obvious that they barely knew how to use their equipment, so they were probably using an auto battle feature.”

“It is the worst option for fighting a Juraian. They got drunk with power and let themselves get carried away.”

“It's like when we first became friends with the Royal Trees, there were people who sometimes misunderstood them.”

In the early days of the Royal Tree, there were those who were so elated by the backup they received from the Imperial Tree when fighting enemies that they destroyed excessively, and there were also those who became arrogant with their sense of all-powerfulness and wielded their power unnecessarily.

“Even so, the others should have been trained in battle, their skills are second-tier at best.”

“The lower-class cavalry reacted better, isn't it a sad sight?”

“It's a privileged hierarchy, their coddling held back their skills with their cavalry ... I can’t help but wonder why they use giant mechs like that.”

“It doesn't have to be huge like that.”

“Hmm... ... Well, if it's a symbol of power, size can give quite an impression.” Azusa seemed to like the huge robot concept.

“Men like that don't they, Seina seems to feel that way.”

“Well ... Well, when you think about the size, the Yomotsu Wolf is a bit too powerful, but Kiriko seems to have been able to handle it quite well.”

“That's right, but if you think about it, the Kamidake which is comparable to a first-generation ship, is impossible to use for such a localized battle.”

Wide scale battles happened in outer space with wide areas of destruction, high power was necessary because the ships were heavily armored. Compared with that, Armored Knights might as well have armor made of paper.

“Wow ... ... and to think Washu wanted to give Kenshi one. If Rea hadn't shot her idea down that would've been a catastrophe.”

“Yes, but Kiriko-chan seemed to be able to master it quite easily.”

“I think she went out of the way to provoke them so she could get some practice in.”

“Well, she must've realized it was a good opportunity to train in combat. She's gotten quite a lot of experience rather quickly just from being around Seina.”

“She doesn't seem to be neglecting her training either. I'm impressed.”

“So, they’re honoring their proposed demands?”

“Yes, we don't have to worry about that.”

“Okay ... ... well then, that's a step forward. It's smaller than the first one the Galactic Federation saw, but it shouldn't be hard to find a single lost person now.”

“Well, wherever Seina goes, a fuss is sure to break out. It's just a matter of time till he makes a bunch of noise somewhere.”

“Ahaha ... ... That's why I'm not worried about him missing ... It's just a matter of time before everyone knows where he is and what he's doing there.”

Azusa looked up at the air in a puzzled manner as the girls giggled over the latest member of “Seto's victim association”.

Afterword: Concluding Theater Part 13

This is the base corridor of the Yomotsu Wolf in the new residence plate of the Kamidake. And soon it will be time for the change of Central Command staff.

“Are you okay, Nya?”

“Looks like you're okay, Nya.”

“The time is early, I'm sure it'll be fine Nyah.”

“But be careful, Nya. This is the area where that magic beast is.”

“So far, no sign of Nya.”

Ket-See and the others who were heading for the central command center were frequently on the lookout, hiding behind plants and proceeding cautiously.

“Good. Everyone's okay, Nya?” I'm okay.

“Yes, I'm sure she's safe, Nya.”

“Okay, roll call just to be safe, one nya.”

“Two nya.”

“Three nya.”

“Four nya.”

“Miaa, miaa♡”

“Okay. All five of us are here. Meow ... ... five? Meow and the others are supposed to be four. ... ...”

When Ket-see No. 1 looked around at the faces of the others, she saw Fuku's face, which had somehow blended in. She had even folded up his long ears to resemble Ket-see and the others. “There it is!”

“Fufu! Fufufufuku nya!”

“Magic beast meow!”

“Run! Run!”

“Meow!”

And before Ket-see and the others could escape, Fuku jumped at them with tremendous force.

“They got No. 1, Meow!”

“Spin meow! I'm spinning! My eyes are spinning!”

It was like a hanging swing or a rotating playground equipment that she learned from playing with Petit Washu, where she would rotate the floating Ket-see horizontally and vertically and jump from one Ket-see to another. She looks like a gymnast or a circus performer.

“Miaaaaaaaaaaaaan!”

This was a fun game for Fuku these days. Occasionally she made a mistake and ended up sticking to the wall or floor or crashing into a plant, but she doesn't get hurt and the mistake seemed to be fun for her.

(Of course, I can't play with them endlessly. I've been told by Kiriko that I can only play with them until Ket-see and the others enter the central command center.) In other words, the game was to see how much she could toy with Ket-See and the others during that time.

“Oh, Fuku-chan, good morning.”

“You're always good.”

The workers in the central command center on their way to work smiled at her and called out to her. Fuku had become an idol to the inhabitants of the fantasy world.

“Help me, meow!”

However, the staff members passing by were all smiling at the scene, and no one wanted to help the Ket-See's suffering. In any case, after the excessively energetic Ket-See's became the toys of fortune, the energy to make noise was sucked out of them, and they quietly went about their duties, so everyone welcomed them.

“Miya mya mya Miaaaaaaaaaaaaan ♡”

“I'm giddy.”

This was becoming the usual scene at this base.

Incidentally, since they were in the Kamidake, no matter how hard Ket-See and the others tried to hide, it was a futile effort, but they hadn't realized that yet.